King Abdullah condoled by Pope

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Apostolic Nunciature in Jordan makes available the text of the message sent by His Holiness Pope John Paul II to His Majesty Abdullah Ben Hussein on Feb. 8, 1999: "Deeply saddened at the death of His Majesty King Hussein Ben Talal, I send heartfelt condolences to you, to the Royal family and to the government and people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. In my various meetings with the late King, I was struck not only by his firm desire to serve the interests and well-being of his own people but also by his unflagging commitment to the quest for stability and lasting peace throughout the Middle East. This is a legacy which must live on: For no greater tribute can be paid to the King than the pursuit of this task which was so dear to him. I pray therefore that you will be granted strength and wisdom as you seek to lead your country and its people towards that peace and harmony for which your father toiled so courageously and tirelessly. Commending King Hussein to the All Merciful God, I invoke upon Your Majesty and the Jordanian nation abundant divine blessings."



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AMMAN TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1999, SHAWWAL 23, 1419

Price: Jordan 200 Fils

King Hussein laid to rest

By Ghadeer Taher

AMMAN — Drawn together in their grief, world leaders and Jordanians Monday laid to rest His Majesty King Hussein in a resplendent state funeral cuiminating a day of anguished mourning and tributes for Jordan's beloved King.

Kings, presidents and dignitaries from more than 50 countries joined millions of Jordanians in mourning the death of King Hussein, who reigned nearly half-a-century on the Throne.

In the simplest of white shrouds the King's body was **≥** lowered by his sons into a grave in the family cemetery on the Royal Palace grounds as thousands of Jordanians and their guests looked on in sadness, many blinking back tears at the loss of a leading world

King Hussein made his last journey through Amman's streets on a flower bedecked gun carriage accompanied by a motorcade of red jeeps commencing from Bab Al Salam Palace to his final resting place next to the graves of his grandfather, King Abdullah, and father, King Talal.

Nearly one million Jordanians, braving near-freezing temperatures and gusty winds, lined the capital's streets to bid farewell to their King.

Three helicopters hovered low in the grev-veiled skies as the country's military, out in full force, patrolled the streets. Another million mourners

country in a remarkable sign of love and grief. In mosques around the country, imams performed the

attended rites elsewhere in the

prayer of the absent. The procession took the 63vear-old King, who died Sunday after a seven-month battle

with lymphatic cancer, past his

former home of many years, Al Nadwa Palace.

Sombre leaders from more than 50 countries, including U.S. President Bill Clinton leading a delegation of three former presidents, Syrian President Hafez Assad, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, European and Gulf royalty, and Israeli politicians, filed past the coffin laying in state in the Palace Throne Room.

King Abdullah, Royal family members and senior officials solemnly stood watching as Jordanians and international figures paid their respects. Many of the delegations from Muslim countries paused to read the customary Fatiha

Clinton, flanked by former Presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and George Bush, lowered their head in prayer. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton accompanied her husband to Amman, but in keeping with Muslim practices, did not attend the formal procession and prayers. A pale Queen Noor and other female members of the family, draped in black and wearing white headscarves, were briefly seen at the entrance of Bab Al Salam, braced together as the casket left the palace.

Visiting dignitaries, including Spain's Queen Sofia and the U.S. first lady, were received by the Queen for condolences in separate ceremonies at the palace of the late Queen Zein Al Sharaf.

"It is an extremely strong statement to the people of Jordan that America stands with them during this difficult period," Clinton's National Security Adviser Sandy Berger was quoted as saying by the Associated Press.

Many Arab and Western countries, anxious to see a smooth transition to King later met with the new King.



His Majesty King Abdullah carries the coffin of King Hussein along with Crown Prince Hamzah, Prince Rashid, and Prince Hashem following the funeral prayers at Bab Al Salam Palace on Monday (Reuters photo)

grappling with a recession and over the Kingdom's peace the Middle East.

\$6.5 billion debt burden. Assad, in a rare trip abroad, was the first foreign leader to

talks with Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh. Setting aside their differences pay his condolences to King Abdullah after the burial. He and leaving domestic concerns behind, world leaders gathered

Abdullah's rule, pledged eco- Earlier, Assad, who had cool in Amman to pay their respects leader Yasser Arafat, Britain's nomic assistance to the country, relations with King Hussein to the longest serving ruler in

treaty with Israel, held lengthy Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah, Spain's King Juan Carlos, Oman's Sultan Qaboos, President Jacques French Chirac, Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, Palestinian

Prince Charles and Premier Tony Blair, World Bank head James Wolfensohn, and United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan were among the many

Hussein's death brought together enemies, including U.S. and British leaders with Iraqi Vice President Taha Mohieddin Ma'arouf as well as antagonists Syria and who came to mourn a leader. Israel. It was the first time lauded around the world as a man of peace and a true friend. Israeli leaders were also pre-

Reflecting the popularity of the King in Israel, a large delegation, led by President Ezer Weizman and Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu, attended the funeral.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin, unmistakably ill, also came to Amman but did not file past the King's coffin, unable to climb the steps into Raghadan Palace. Accompanied by his doctors, he flew home immedi-

King Abdullah, swom in hours after his father's death and who has pledged to follow his father's policies, led prayers at Hamzah Ben Abdul Motaleb Mosque in the final act before the burial.

The new King, who stood stoically throughout the fivehour funeral, held several meetings with visiting heads of state, including Clinton, Chirac, Arafat, Britain's Prince Charles and Prime Minister Blair, Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito, and Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah following

the funeral ceremony. King Hussein flew back home from a United States hospital Friday in critical condition after a bone marrow transplant failed to arrest a relapse of cancer. one month after doctors said he was fully recovered.

A few hours after the King's death was announced, Crown Prince Abdullah, who was designated heir to the Throne on Jan. 25, was proclaimed King. He has pledged to continue his father's policies and called on Jordanians to unite.

The new King's first official decree, issued the same day, was to name his 18-year-old half-brother Prince Hamzah as Crown Prince. The new Crown Assad attended an event where Prince is Queen Noor's eldest

World pays respects to King Hussein on his final journey

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein made his final journey Monday through grief-stricken crowds who bid an emotional farewell to their much-loved ruler.

The late King's bereaved five sons -- His Majesty King Abdullah, HRH Prince Faisal, HRH Prince Ali, HRH Crown Prince Harnzah and HRH Prince Hashem. carried their father's coffin from his home, Bab Al Salam on the first stage of a resplendent funeral procession taking the Monarch to his final resting place.

They passed the casket — to eight pallbearers — all army colonels wearing black armbands. The casket was then carried between two rows of honour guards to a gun carriage as military music was played.

Draped in the green, red, white and black Jordanian flag, the King's coffin travelled the 20-kilometre route through the streets of the capital to the old Royal Palaces complex which also houses the Hashemite burial ground.

More than 50 world leaders.

including U.S. President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, streamed to Jordan to pay their last respects to King Hussein, the region's longest-serving ruler, who died on Sunday of cancer, aged 63.

Nearly one million Jordanian men, women and children lined the streets under heavy grey skies as the procession bearing the body of their beloved King headed towards the burial site.

Most were carrying black flags and posters of the late Monarch, who turned their Kingdom into a modern nation from a tiny underde-

veloped state. Many slapped their faces, wailed and sobbed, some near hysteria as the contege approached

The gun carriage, laden with white flowers, was esconed by 16 red army jeeps and followed by a



Crowds surround the motorcade carrying the coffin of King Hussein during his funeral procession Monday (AFP photo)

convoy of cars carrying Jordanian officials, politicians and dignitaries who flocked to Amman from all

over Jordan. Male members of the Royal family, including King Abdullah, began arriving at Raghadan Palace near the Royal Cemetery, where King Hussein was to be buried next to his father, King Talal, and his grandfather. King Abdullah, founder of

modern Jordan. Foreign heads of state including Syrian President Hafez Assad, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Israeli President Ezer Weizman, French President Jacques Chirac and Czech President Vaclav Havel greeted each other in the solemnity of the palace

Many guests called the procession "funeral of the 20th century."

Outside the Palace, members of the Royal Guard, dressed in khaki uniforms and the traditional redand-white kiffiya, formed a guard

Along the route, mourners tossed flowers at the cortege as it went by, and some ran along the road trying to keep up with the procession. In some areas police were forced to join hands forming a human barrier between the crowds and the official cars, as helicopters hovered over-

As crowds surged forward, breaking through police lines, the cortege was forced to a halt nearly 100 times.

The route through the city took the funeral procession past Al Hussein Medical Complex, where King Hussein on Sunday succumbed to a seven-month battle with cancer.

As the procession inched closer to Raghadan Palace, scores of weeping Jordanians started chasing the cortege, and traffic on bridges across the route came to a halt. Crowds were chanting "Allahu

Akbar (God is Great) and Allah Yirhamak (May God have mercy on you).

The wail of Koranic verses hung in the air.

The throngs swelled as the procession approached the gates of the downtown palace, with thousands of people swarming behind or next to the gun carriage carrying King Hussein's body. The cortege wound through the

Royal Palace grounds and entered

the gates of Raghadan Palace as soldiers saluted their fallen Supreme Commander. King Abdullah and Royal family members, flanked by a guard of honour, formally received the casket, carried by the eight pallbearers

as the Jordan Armed Forces band began to play. The coffin was carried into the Palace and placed in state in the Throne room, in the direction of the

Holy City of Mecca. The eight officers, many with tears welling up in their eyes, saluted their late Monarch and stepped

The flag of the Royal family was draped across the Jordanian flag covering the casket as four Circassian guards, the King's ceremonial

guard, stood at each corner. King Abdullah, followed by his four brothers, his uncles HRH Prince Mohammad, HRH Prince Hassan, cousins, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad and Prince Rashed Ben Al Hassan, other male members of the Royal family as well as the prime minister and top military, police and intelligence officials, arrived at the Throne room to pay their respects.

Later, cousins and distant relatives, followed by former prime ministers, Royal court chiefs, Cabinet ministers, senators, deputies and senior government employees filed towards the casket bowed their heads or recited verses of the Holy Koran, then proceeded.

Russia's ailing President Yeltsin arrived at the palace helped by two aides as he walked slowly up the steps. However, he could not make it to the Throne room, prompting King Abdullah to meet Yeltsin halfway through before he was rushed back to the airport.

Visiting foreign dignitaries, including Arab leaders, proceeded into the Throne room at the ceremonial Palace to pay their respects.

Syrian President Hafez Assad. whose last-minute arrival for the funeral took many officials by surprise, stopped for several seconds at the casket along with Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa. The three held up their hands in prayer.

Others filing past included U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Outside the palace, heads of state and princes including President Clinton rubbed shoulders as they waited to move up the steps into the Throne room.

Clinton, along with former presidents George Bush, Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford, paused in front of the casket for a few seconds, their heads bowed and hands clasped. A large delegation of American dignitaries paid their respects.

Others to file past included Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, who visited King Hussein at the Mayo Clinic last year, where

he was receiving chemotherapy. Former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and French President Jacques Chirac joined the throngs of princes representing all of Europe's royal families, heads of state and governments from Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak paused briefly, before giving way to a delegation from Britain including Prince Charles and Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Kuwait's Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah was one of the final foreign dignitaries to pay his respects, in a sign of improving ties with Jordan after almost nine years of tension since the 1990 Gulf crisis.

Outside, the unprecedented gathering of world leaders waited as Jordanian officials prepared to take the casket to the Hamzah Ben Abdul Motaleb mosque for prayers

before the burial ceremony. The Hashemite flag was removed from the casket and folded and pre-

the "Fatiha," the first verse of the Koran, a traditional Islamic custom at funerals. Eight. Jordanian officers lifted King Hussein's casket, now shrouded only in the national flag,

sented to King Abdullah, who read

on to their shoulders and carried it from the Throne room on to a gun carriage outside the Palace doors. In the background, bereaved mourners could be heard outside the palace's lower gate, amidst church bells and mosque sermons from across Amman.

The procession moved off slowly towards the mosque after a cannon salute, led by a military band playing bagpipes and drums.

Before the paying of respects, a riderless Arabian horse named Amr. the King's favourite stallion, was led into the palace compound with a pair of empty boots in the stirrups, facing backward.

Jordanian army officers, who carnied wreaths sent by all visiting leaders and dignitaries, again formed a guard of honour around the coffin, followed by the white stallion and 10 medal-bearers.

Jordanian officials linked arms as they led the sea of foreign visitors through the palace grounds towards the mosque inside the compound. the sun finally breaking through by mid-afternoon.

Eight army officers once again lifted the coffin from the gun carriage on to their shoulders and marched slowly into the simple white stone mosque for the funeral service.

Inside, King Abdullah and the Royal family attended the afternoon prayers in line with Islamic tradition and were joined by numerous Muslim leaders for 20 minutes of prayer inside the mosque while a number of other world leaders waited out-

(Continued on page 12)

Mideast marks demise of veteran peacemaker

Monday mourned the loss of King Hussein and prayed King Abdullah would continue the policies of one of the Middle East's veteran peacemakers.

In Egypt, the only other Arab state besides Jordan which has a peace treaty with Israel, people clustered around Cairo kiosks poring over morning newspaper headlines lamenting the loss of the Middle East's longest serving ruler.

"He was a great and wise king who overcame trials colonel Saleh Khairi.

Shopkeeper Mohammad Abdul Mekari said: "He loved peace. He helped the Palestinian cause and made peace with Israel." Kings, princes and presidents attended the funeral in Jordan on Monday of King Hussein, who died on Sun-

Many newspapers high-lighted his role as a key

DUBAI (AFP) — The Gulf press on

Monday paid homage to the memory

of King Hussein, who died from can-

cer Sunday, with a Saudi newspaper

saying he had "left the world at peace"

"King Hussein was one of the lead-

ing figures of the peace process, and a

historic symbol in which Jordan and

the Arab World can be proud. He dedicated his life to his nation," the Saudi

"He left the world after making Jor-

dan respected by others, he played an

important role in finding wise and

judicious solutions to the most com-

plicated political and economic ques-

"He left the world at peace with all

"A page of Jordanian, Arab and

world history has been turned with the

death of King Hussein, whose extraor-

dinary skills have been recognised

today across the planet," Qatar's Al

"He managed during his 47-year

Arab and Islamic states, and all the

countries friendly with Jordan." he

daily Al Yaum said.

tions," the daily said.

Watan newspaper said.

Israeli peace and as one of the two veteran Arab leaders besides Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak who meets both Israelis and Palestinians.

Others echoed opposition to his 1994 peace deal with

Egyptian companies ran full-page condolences in state newspapers which called for stability in the Kingdom under Abdullah. sworn in as the new king on Sunday.

"There is no doubt that for the good of his coun- Jordan feels a large void try." said retired army now even if the son king and political institutions in Jordan are capable of filling this void gradually. which we do not doubt at

> "But what can help King Abdullah and his supporters achieve this quickly is internal, Arab, international and Jordanian support," the Egyptian state-owned Al Ahram newspaper said. Middle East peace efforts

'left the world at peace'

Al Raya daily said.

mourning.

Gulf press salutes King who

international level despite the weak-

ness of its resources," the Doha based

The semi-official United Arab Emi-

rates' Al Ittihad newspaper appeared

only in black and white Monday, with

all other colours taken out as a sign of

"For a whole generation of Jordani-

"His ability to cross minefields and

"His death leaves a void difficult to

fill. Arabs are called on to support the new King, Abdullah, to surmount

In Kuwait, Ahmad Al Jarallah, edi-

tor-in-chief of Arab Times, said the

late King had "converted Jordan into a

strong political entity, with the eco-

nomic and social pillars for its sur-

A Kuwait Times editorial said that

King Hussein had laboured

these difficult circumstances."

ans and Arabs. Hussein is synony-

to face drawning to changes, inspired admiration from those who disagreed with him and those who supported

mous with Jordan," it said.

him," the daily said.

mentation of the deals between Israelis and Pales-

The state-owned Al Jomhuria daily said: "[Stability] is needed in the Arab region...It cannot handle new problems now." Abbas Al Tarabeley of Egypt's daily opposition Al Wafd highlighted Jordan's large population of Palestinians.

'The new king has to prove his faith in democracy to gain the support of the different sects in Jordan. Political life has to continue with its 20 parties under complete democracy so that the new king follows in his father's path..." The Palestinian daily Al Hayat Al Jedida said in an editorial: "He was the best supporter of Palestine and of the Palestinian people... The popular daily Al Quds

editorial said: "Our hope

successor...Abdullah the

son of King Hussein. To

our hopes for the future." The last remaining active Arab-Israeli front is in the south of Lebanon, whose pro-Syrian As Safir newspaper in a front-page editorial lambasted Jordan's close ties with Israel and what it described as U.S.

"It's enough that all sides in the Israeli political establishment are taking part in the funeral of King Hussein...Israel is the guarantee of the [existence] of the Kingdom and the Throne," the daily's editorin-chief Talal Salman

hegemony over the Throne.

The Middle East's non-Arab newspapers also covered the death.

Israeli newspapers published long stories and large photos of the King, who was the second Arab leader to forge a peace treaty with Israel after Egyptian President Anwar

aged Middle East ... His death will

have far-reaching effects on his coun-

But Saleh Al Shayeji, a columnist in

Al Anba, said King Hussein had died

"carrying with him heavy sins and lots

"Death does not forgive sins and

mistakes, and they follow the dead to

the grave," Shayeji warned, saying

that until recently King Hussein had

been a knife in the chests and sides of

"We, the Kuwaitis, will not forget

the picture of King Hussein landing at

Baghdad airport on the second day of

the [1990 Iraqi] invasion [of Kuwait]

with a big smile filling his face, as he

kissed Saddam Hussein and embraced

But other Kuwaiti columnists were

less critical of the late King. Mohsen

Al Mutairi in Al Rai Al Aam said: "It

is no exaggeration to say that his

departure has left a crisis in the Arab

World that may lead to fundamental

try and the Arab World."

of blood."

the Kuwaiti people.



President Hafez Assad of Syria, right, and Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa arrive at the Royal Palace in Amman on Monday to attend the funeral of King Husseins (AP photo)

Palestinian newspapers pay tribute to King Hussein

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) - Pictures of the late King Hussein covered the front pages of Palestinian newspapers on Monday accompanying often emotional stories paying

tribute to the Monarch. The front page of the semi-official Al Hayat Al Jadida newspaper, which is closest to the Palestinian leadership, was edged in black and printed with-

"Our loss is enormous and our concern is great because the late, great King was an outstanding international stage and a beacon in the long Arab night," the newspaper said in a special article. Meanwhile Al Quds, the news-

paper with the largest cir-

of the late King, bordered in black.

"The King has passed away... Hussein the true. the humble, who was close to the hearts of all Arabs, has met his end," the paper said in a leader.

Another page of the newspaper was devoted to pictures of the late King in different phases of his life. Following the announce-

death on Sunday, the National Authority announced three days of official mourning.

ment of King Hussein's

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and a coterie of senior officials were due to attend King Hussein's funeral in Amman

culation in the Palestinian territories, carried on its Baghdad remains surprisingly silent on King Hussein's death

BAGHDAD (AP) - and Jordanian goods sus- [former] Yugoslavia, they bour's death, even if an Watching, hearing or reading news in Iraq's state-run media Monday, one could easily think that little is happening in neighbouring

Iordan. Even one day after King Hussein's death, the silence in Iraq was stunning - there was no word of condolence, no congratulatory telegrams to the new King Abdullah and no debate on whether it will lend a new twist to Baghdad's sometimes sweet, sometimes sour relations

with Amman. In an Arab World in tain the sanctions-hit people of Iraq. In its main nightly news programme on Sunday,

Iraq's state-run television focused — as always — on President Saddam Hussein. For about 15 minutes, the anchorman reported on Saddam's meeting with

military commanders to discuss ways to improve air defences against U.S. and British warplanes. President, the television said, congratulated his

troops for defying the allies and setting an example to other countries in countering Western hege-

The United States "no terrifies the world...Therefore when it threatened the people of mocked Washington," Saddam was quoted as saying. After reporting more news about the Iraqi leader.

the anchorman slipped in that King Hussein had On Monday, the newspa-

pers treated the death no differently. Iraq's most influential

newspaper, Babel, published some reports on the death, but no obituary. Other newspapers printed a few lines on Iraq's decision to send Vice President Taha Ma'arouf to Jordan to attend the funeral.

Iraq's silence could be either an example of extreme caution or loaded with implications: in the Arab World it is considered an insult to ignore a neighenemy.

King Hussein, who sought an Arab diplomatic solution to the 1991 Gulf crisis, had expressed increasing dismay with the Iraqi regime in recent years.

Jordan is Iraq's biggest Arab trading partner, supplying Bughdad with most of the nearly 50 items not covered by the U.N. sanctions; soap, tyres, medical equipment, medicines, car parts, sanitary implements among others.

Jordan depends entirely on Iraq for its fuel. It gets about 90,000 barrels of oil a day from Iraq, half of it free and the other half at a 50 per cent discount.

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Airports (RW)

changes in the Arab map." "vigourously for peace in the war-rav-Brunei laments loss of King Hussein

Statement by Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mui'zaddin daulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunci Darussalam on the occasion of the functal of His Majesty King Hussein.

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PRAYER TIMES

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

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Congregation Tel. 5688404

in Amman Tel. 5811295

Sweifich, Tel. 5920740

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Tel. 5865897

Church Tel. 4771751.

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sense of personal loss for have known His Majesty for so many years. I, and my family and the people of Brunei Darussalam, grieve with his family and the people

vival.

great man.

moment. I feel a deep

The world has lost a

of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The fact that leaders from all over the globe are gathered here today is testimony to the high esteem with which His Majesty King Hussein was held throughout the world. He strived tirelessly for

peace in the Middle East almost right to the last moment of his life. His

Majesty King Hussein would have wanted it.

contribution to the peace process is beyond measure. Let us hope that the other leaders who share his vision will continue with their efforts until real and permanent peace is achieved as His

mourning for the Jordanian Monarch, Iraq stood alone.

The silence shrouds a deep interdependence. Iraq and Jordan need each other. Iraqi oil fuels Jordan

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (44)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 44 (52700). Information on Royal Wings flights can be supplied on plune 4875201-5

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights 07:15Sanua (RJ) 07:30 .Damascus (RI) 09:50 ...Tehran, Abu Dhabi (R.f.) 10:05Muscar Dubai (RJ) 10:15 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 16:20Cairo (RJ) 17:30London, Frankfurt (RJ) 18:15Chicago, Shannon (RJ) 01:25

Other FlightsAden ([Y]) 14:35 ...Istanbul (TK) 18:00Dubai, Damascus (EK)Beirut (ME) 18:45Kiev (6U) 19:05 ...Paris (AF) ...Tel Aviv (LY) 20:40Cario (MS) 22:25 ... London, Damascus (BA) 23:35Amsterdam (KL)Lamaca(CY) -----Bucharest (RO)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights 07:25 Aquiba (arriving at QAIA) (RW) 08:50...Aqaba (arriving at QAJA) (RW)

02:00 _____Rome (AZ)

09:50. Aqaba (arriving at Marka

DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights 08:25 Amsterdam, New York (RJ) II:05 Vienna. Frankfurt (RI) 12:00Geneva. Madrid (RJ) 12:10Brussels, Paris (RJ) 12:15London (RJ)

12:30Cairo (RJ) 20:30Jeddah (RJ) 20:45Damuscus, Beirut (RJ) 21:00Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) Other Flights 07:10Frankfurt (LH) 13:30Aden (TY) ..Istanbul (TK) 19:00Dubai (EK) 19:40Kiev (6U) 20:00Beirut (ME) 21:10Tel Aviv (LY) 21:40Cairo (MS) 00:35 Amsterdam (KL)

01:55Bucharest (RO) 03:00Rome (AZ) Royal Wings (RW) Flights 05:00 Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW) 08:30...Aqaba (from Marka Airport)(RW) 16:30 Tel Aviv (from Marka Air-

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4628052

The

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology Temperatures are expected to rise

slightly with relative cold weather conditions prevailing Skies will be partly cloudy and winds westerly moderate. In Agaba, skies will be partly cloudy, winds nonherly moderate, and seas

Aqaba . Deserts Jordan Valley ...

ty readings: Amman 86 per cent,

Aqaba 68 per cent.

12/80. ..03/14 .. 09/20 Yesterday's high temperatures: IRBID: Amman 10, Aqaba 19 Humidi-

expected today in the following

Ailoun Jerash ...05/13 Um Qays Petra . .05/13 Dead Sea ..11/23

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Civil Defence Immediate Rescue

....4630341 Civil Defence Emergency...... 199 Rescue Police. 192, 4621111, 4637777 Fire Brigade.....46171014775121 Blood Bank... Highway Police.... 5343402 _4896390 Traffic Police..... Public Security Dept......4630321 Hotel Complaints......5605800 Price Complaints____5661176 Water & Sewerage Complaints 4897467 Amman Municipality Complaints4787111

Telephone Information (directory121 assistance) Overseas Calls0132 Central Amman Telephone Repairs ..4623101 Abdali Tel. Repairs...... ...5661101 Jordan Television4773111 ..4774111 Radio Jordan Water Authority _5680100

J. Electricity Authority ...5815615

Electric Power Co.....4636381

Queen Alia Intl. Airport44-53200 HOSPITALS

RJ Flight Information....44-53200

AMMAN: The Arab Centre for Heart and Spe-

cial Surgery The Islamic, Abdli5666131/7 Hussein Medical Centre_5856856 Luzmila4630195 Khalidi Maternity......4644281/6 Akileh Maternity 1612441/2 Jabal Amman Maternity.....4642362 Malhas, J. Amman.4636140 Palestine, Shmeisani5607071 Shmeisani Hospital5607431 Jordan Hospital **..5**607550 University Hospital5353414 Al-Musher Hospital .5667227/9 Al-Ahli, Abdali5664164/6 Italian, Al-Muhajreen 4777101/3 Al-Bashir......4775111/26

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital .(09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital. (09)900560 Ibn Sina Hospital 1091986731 Al Hikma Modem Hospital

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Queen Alia Hospital......5157100 Amal Hospital5607155

Al Amal Cancer Centre ..5353000

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555 Roman Catholic Hospital(02)7101372, (02)7103101 Rosary Sisters Speciality Hospital(02)7103100)

AIRPORT

risingly •

's death





Her Majesty Queen Noor and other female members of

the Royal family, all dressed

in black with white head-

scarves, watched weeping as

the men passed the coffin to

eight army colonels in black

They placed it on a military

jeep for a sombre 20-kilome-

tre journey to Raghdan

Palace for burial at the Royal

Cemetery next to the King's father. His Majesty King

Talal and his grandfather, His Majesty King Abdullah, the founder of modern Jor-

The car was escorted by

sixteen red army jeeps, fol-

lowed by a convoy of cars

carrying Jordanian digni-

"I stand speechless, said 30-year-old Khalil Nasser.

"Had it not been for my

belief in God and fate, my

mind would have stopped to

Other women wailed: "Oh

Many younger men and

women ran for miles behind

the cortege, desperately try-

Police pushed the surging

people when they lurched

forward towards the casket

and broke barriers near the

Interior Ministry tunnel,

where a large portrait for

King Hussein covered most of the six stories of the Hous-

The ainxious wait of the

country's population was

broken at midday Sunday,

when a shocked news pre-

senters went on state televi-

sion to announce that King

Hussein had died at 11:43

a.m. after losing a seven-

"This loss is too big for us

to take, he was our father, he

knew many of us by name

and he drank and ate with

many of us," said a tribal

leader. "But, we must over-

month battle with cancer.

ing Bank Centre.

ing to reach their leader.

our King, you cannot die. God help us."

function."

Jordanians line Amman's streets to bid farewell to King

By Ahmad Khatib

AMMAN - Grey skies and a damp cold cast an added pall over Amman as around one million Jordanians with heavy hearts quietly lined the streets on Sunday to bid farewell to their beloved King Hussein, who died from cancer a day earlier.

Men, women and children from all walks of life streamed to the streets of the procession to catch the last glimpse of the flag-draped coffin carrying the body of "the King of hearts."

They were in pain - nearly 80 per cent of the 4.2 million population have known no other ruler than the King and often dubbed him a father, a brother and a leader.

"God is great," "God show mercy on you" and "With our blood and soul we sacrifice our lives for you," mourners cried, their voices raised to a pitch as the coffin resting on a flower bedecked gun carriage passed by and helicopters hovered over-

Defying cold weather temperatures, they wept, waved black flags and threw white flowers and lilies at the motorcade.

The murmurs of men praying mixed with the wailing of pained women and weeping of men — many of whom used their red-and-white traditional kiffiyehs to wipe streams of tears away. The outpouring grief was

Many mourners fainted. Palace officials said there were over 100 attempts by saddened people to throw themselves at the cortege. forcing policemen and members of the Royal Forces to encircle the hearse.

The funeral of the King, who lost a seven-month battle with cancer, was not only an enormous emotional outpouring for Jordanians. With over 50 worldwide presidents and emirs, representatives of Europe's main royal families and other leading politicians, many participants dubbed it the "funeral of the 20th century.

King Hussein's five sons, come our pain and sorrow including Jordan's new King and remain loyal to the Abdullah, carried their father's coffin from inside King's policies and legacy," he added. his Bab Al Salam Palace Government offices were (door of peace) signalling the start of the King's final jour-

ordered closed until Saturday, and flags flew at half-mast over official buildings. A group of nurses outside

the Al Hussein Medical Centre, where King Hussein succumbed to cancer slapped their faces and wept as the cortege passed by. Rooftops on the road

where the procession passed were filled with people, many waiving flags. Recordings of the Koran were played in many houses and over mosques' loudspeakers in a sign of mourning.

The government announced 40 days of mourning, while the Royal Court proclaimed three months for mourning, for the King, who has turned Jordan from tiny undeveloped nation into a modern and sta-

ble Kingdom.
"May God have mercy on the father of Islam and the fathers of Arabs," said Jordan Television newsman Adnan Zobi, his voice shaking.

"Our nation witnessed the nobility of scores of Arab and foreign leaders who came to condole Jordanians, thanks to you, Your

You will never die, you will forever remain in our hearts," he said as King Hussein's body, covered in simple white cloth in line with Islamic tradition, was lifted from the casket by his five sons and lowered into the ground.

The sound of a 15-gun salute and suppressed tears broke the deadly silence.

We belong to God and to God we shall return" said Royal Court Imam Sheikh Ahmad Hleil.

The funeral party then left the burial tent led by King Abdullah, his four brothers, two uncles, HRH Prince Mohammad and HRH Prince Hassan and close cousins, to receive condolences from over 5,000 Western, Arab and Jordanian dig-



People gather around a sign leading to the Royal Palaces to have the last look at their King before he was buried in Amman on Monday (AFP photo)

Tarawneh: King Abdullah to follow father's footsteps

Queen Alia remembered

TODAY MARKS the 22nd an eniversary of the tragic death of Queen Alia, who passed away at the age of 28

in a helicopter crash while returning from an inspec-

Queen Alia, born Alia Baha Uddin Toukan, married His Majesty King Hussein in December 1971. They

had two children, Their Royal Highnesses Princess

Haya and Prince Ali, and the y adopted Abir Moheis-

tion trip to a Tafileh hospital.

AMMAN (Petra) - His Majesty King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein will follow in the footsteps of his father the late King Hus-sein and will maintain Jordan's distinguished ties with the Arab and foreign countries, Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh said Monday.

Jordan has been dealing with the Arab sister countries and the other nations: of the world within the: framework of a policy drawn up by the late King Hussein and there is no reason to change this policy, Tarawneh said in remarks made to the Joydan News Agency, Petra. Queen Alia

International Airport. Tarawneh said King Hussein has passed aw 1y in peace which was quite apparent on his face after death because he is a leader who had special his life as a man of

The prime minister clismissed any fears about the future of Jordan in the absence of King Hussein. saying: "We have wit-nessed what we had expected — the sympathy, the noble feelings

solidarity from the leaders of the world as well as those of the Jordanian people. There is no fear over the future of Jordan, a country with a solid stand and united people. The people of Jordan are overwhelmed by sadness at the moment but their love for the homeland and the late King Hussein and their affection for His Majesty King Abdullah give us strength to move

"I would like to reaffirm to the world that we are standing in one line rallying behind King Abdullah and there is no doubt about this and there is no room for retreat in a country in which the late Monarch had laid the foundation of institutions, transforming Jordan into a state of law." added Tarawneh.

Citing the swearing in ceremony of King Abdullah before both Houses of Parliament. Tarawneh said: "You have all seen the smooth transition of power in Parliament where King Abdullah took the oath and assumed his constitutional powers."

AMMAN (Petra) - The President of the Senate Zeid Rifai Monday sent a cable to His Majesty King the cable. Abdullah Ben Al Hussein

pledging the Upper House of Parliament's allegiance to the Throne and commitment to working under his The senators voice their Crown Prince.

loyalty to you and the Hashemite leadership and remain committed to pursue the course set by the late King Hussein - may God bless his soul - to attain further achievements for the Kingdom," said

"The Senate takes pride in what Jordan has achieved at the hands of we look forward to pursuing the march for development and prosperity," said

Rifai sent a cable to HRH Crown Prince Hamzah Ben Al Hussein in his name and on behalf of the Senate members congratulating him on his appointment as

Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Hadi Majali Monday sent a cable of condolence to King Abdullah on the passing of the late king Hussein, expressing the deputies' profound grief and praying to God to

bestow mercy on his soul. In the cable, Majali said: "We are all overwhelmed the loss of King Hussein but we will remain faithful to his directives in serving the Kingdom as he has always wanted us to do"

"As members of Parliament, an institution which the late King had founded. we pledge to remain loyal soldiers upholding the Hashemite standards and backing your blessed leadership." said Majali.

Majali also Monday sent a cable to Crown Prince Hamzah expressing the Lower House's grief over the passing of King Hussein and expressing allegiance to the Hashemite Throne.

The Islamic Chief Justice Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib

sympathy on the death of King Hussein in his name and on behalf of the Sharia (Islamic) Court judges.

Sheikh Tamimi wished King Abdullah success in carrying out his duties. Amman Mayor Nidal Al Hadid said in a cable to King Abdullah that the passing of King Hussein was a great loss to Jordan and other Arab countries and a shock to the world

community at large. The President of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) Saif Sharif said in his condolence cable to the King that King Hussein was a man who dedicated his life to serving his

King Abdullah, expressing set an example of tolerance, justice and wise leadership to other leaders and won the hearts of his peo-

> Meanwhile, Jordanians from the different governorates converged on Amman since dawn Monday to take part in the funeral of the late King Hussein and express their love to their leader.

> Reports from different towns around Jordan said stores and businesses closed, black flags were hoisted on buildings and mosques and churches were filled with worshippers for special prayers for the late King Hussein's

Parliament speakers, officials send condolences | Arab, foreign officials express grief

AMMAN (Petra) - Foreign Minister Abdul Ilah Al Khatib Monday received cables from the foreign ministers of Germany, Chile and Brazil, who offered their heartfelt condolences over the passing of His Majesty King Hussein.

In their cables the ministers lauded King Hussein's efforts to establish peace in the Middle East region and voiced confidence that Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah, will continue its efforts to establish peace for all the countries of the region.

Lower House Speaker Abdul Hadi Majali received cables of condolences from his Sudanese and Turkish counterparts, as well as from head of the Political Bureau of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and from President of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU)

Ahmad Fathi Srour. Srour praised King Hussein as an Arab leader who dedicated his life to serve the causes of his people and the Arab Nation and to establish modern democratic institutions in his country.

Srour stressed that the APU is confident that Jordan, under the leadership of King Abdullah, will continue to work for enhancing Arab solidarity and strengthening Jordan's relations with all countries of the world.

Muslim, Christian leaders hail King Hussein's leadership, place hope on successor

By Dima Hamdan

AMMAN - Prominent Muslim and Christian leaders Monday paid :ribute to the late King Hussein and hailed his relentless efforts to maintain equality and justice in Jordan by sustaining both religious and political pluralities in the country. Ziad Abu Ghanimich, a

former member of the Muslim Brotherhood, Jordan's oldest and strongest Islamic move ment. applauded King Hussein's :11 titude exceptional towards the Islamic opposition, established in 1942.

"I feel like any other citizen, grief is the one sentiment that unites all Jordanians, especially because the King - peace the upon his soul - represented a role model among all leaders in the Third World in terms of his stance towards the opposition." he said.

"Jordanians were able to oppose the main policies (if they wished), which were introduced by the King, without opposing

the king himself. This is seldom found in other countries where opposition factions would pay for their positions with their own lives."

Abu Ghanimeh, who has been a member of the opposition for over 50 vears, also expressed hope that King Abdullah would follow in his father's footsteps in this regard and not strengthen ties with Israel and the United States.

"What we hope from the new and vouthful king is to be attentive to the community that was full of love and admiration for King Hussein... The future depends on Jordan's official stance; mainly the immunity from foreign dominance - especially that of the United States and protecting Jordan from the Zionist threats and the false claims regarding peace," Abu Ghanimeh said.

He also said that the government must continue to recognise the Islamic movement as a key player and defender of the wellbeing of Jordan.

directives.

"The Islamic movement will always be a major force in the Jordanian political scene, and any attempt to devalue its position would not be in the interest of Jordan," he said. "One must realise that the Islamic Movement places Jordan's security at its heart."

Abu Ghanimeh namely said the democratic movement in Jordan must be revitalised and that the current Elections Law should be reconsidered. He also hoped that the current Press and Publications Law be replaced with a new law that will enable Jordan to "enter the 21st century with confidence."

Meanwhile, Abdul Majeed Thneibat, the overall leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, stressed that his movement is based on reform rather than opposition. He explained that it was King Hussein's understanding of the objectives and principles of the movement that prevented Jordan from falling

into political turbulence similar to what was experienced in neighbouring Arab countries where political plurality does not

"This movement was formed in 1942 and coexisted with the regime ever since then. The King had set the base for dealing with the Muslim Brotherhood are seldom found in neighbouring Arab countries, and this saved Jordan from falling into severe crises and facing underground activities that were exercised in other countries," he said.

As for the future, Thneibat said he was confident that the basis of the relationship between the Monarchy and the Muslim Brotherhood will remain unchanged under the leadership of King Abdullah.

He also asserted that there was no conflict between maintaining this relationship and the government's normalisation of ties with Israel.

When King Hussein began to negotiate (with Israel), he understood our position and granted us the freedom to express our opinion. This is logical. we have come a long way in our democratic process and now we are able to absorb and respect the opinions of others," Thneibat said.

Saleem Qaf'iti, the Anglican archbishop, also paid homage to the King and expressed deep regret that his death came at a very critical stage for the region.

"It is unfortunate that we have lost the King at a time when this region is desperately in need of strong men with firm beliefs in the rights of the Arab Nation and especially in the rights of the Palestinian people. The King was a rare leader who earned respect from both his friends and encmies," Oaf iti said

"King Hussein was a model of respect, forgiveness, understanding and a fighter for the unity and equality of all monotheistic religions. He created an

atmosphere of equality and justice." Qaf'iti also expressed

hope that King Abdullah will follow in his father's footsteps, especially in seeking independence for the Palestinian people. "We hope that God will

provide King Abdullah with the wisdom that will enable him to carry his father's message and achieve peace on legitimate grounds so as to secure the future for the coming generations," he "We hope that King Hus-

sein's son will carry on his message and achieve the aspirations of the people in this region, especially the hopes of the Palestinians to gain sovereignty and independence Jerusalem as their capital. We also hope that the King will contribute in reclaiming the rights of the Syrian and Lebanese people over their legitimate soil and to unite the entire Arab

Nation." Antonio Sobob, archbishop of Copt Christians in Jordan, asserted that because of King Hussein's liberal and respectful approach towards all religions, he had never felt as a minority in Jordan, a predominantly Muslim

country.

model of a wise, human and brave leader and he was able to unify Jordan; we never felt like strangers in Jordan; we were able to practise our religion in an atmosphere of freedom and forgiveness that was conceived by the King," he "There is no doubt that

" The late king was a

the massive international media coverage of this tragedy is the outcome of the King's efforts and qualities ... all the prominent political figures came to pay their respects to the king and to his efforts for the sake of peace and stability. He has definitely created a distinguished presence for Jordan in the whole world."

and the kind words of nation, adding that he had by sadness and grief over the late King Hussein and Al Tamimi sent a cable to

Police arrest three journalists in Zimbabwe

journalists were arrested in Zimbabwe Monday, apparently over a report involving the country's military operations Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a newspaper

executive said. Trevor Harris, assistant editor of the independent Mirror newspaper, told AFP that police first arrested reporter Grace Kwinjeh at the newspaper offices and took her to Harare Central police station.

In what appears to be a concerted crackdown on independent media, they came back an hour later for Managing Editor Fernando Goncalves, who was taken away in a car which also held his predecessor in the post, Farai Mungazi.

The arrests come just weeks after the detention and alleged torture by the military of two journalists on the Standard newspaper, who wrote a report about an alleged coup plot against President Robert Mugabe.

It also follows a televised address by Mugabe at the

HARARE (AFP) - Three appeared to condone the military's action, and warned erring journalists to "not cry foul" if extraordinary measures were taken against them.

Mirror publisher Ibbo Mandaza said he believed Kwinjeh had been detained for reporting that the family of a Zimbabwean soldier killed in the DRC had been given only his head for bur-

The armed forces, which are extremely sensitive to criticism of their operations in the DRC in support of President Laurent Kabila, denied the report.

Kwinjeh's appeared in the Mirror at the end of last October, and newspaper sources say the delay before her arrest indicates that a crackdown on the independent media has only just begun.

Several ministers have recently threatened new controls on the press, as government Mugabe's faces mounting opposition from trade unions and rights groups protesting government corruption and economic hard-

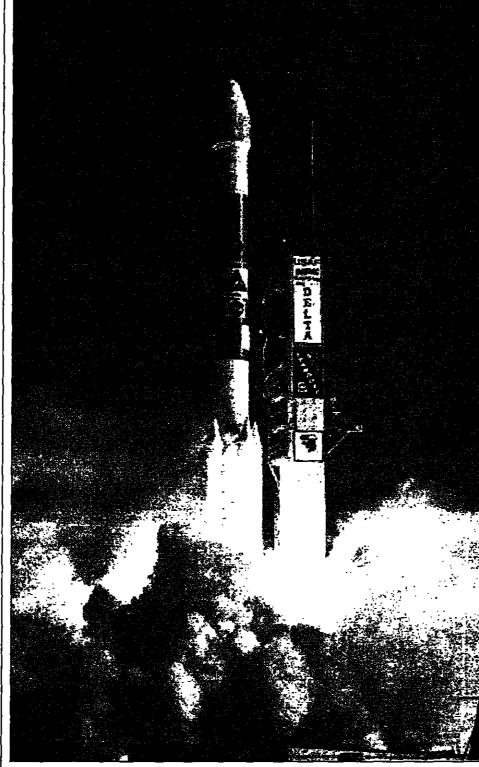
ships.
Information Chimutengwende said: "We have allowed the operations of independent media whose agenda is not to run a business but to

destroy the country."
Home Affairs Minister Dumiso Dabengwa warned that he would not besitate to amend the law to protect the military from a bad press.

"I would like to warn the press that granting them freedom of expression does not give them the right to publish lies with the intention of creating public dis-order. We won't allow that to bappen," Dabengwa said.

Minister of State for National Security, Sydney Sekeramayi, accused some foreign governments, which he did not name, of setting up an informal coalition with the press in a bid to oust Mugabe's government.

He charged that there was a "morbid hatred of the Zimbabwean government by some elements of the foreign press, (and) it is not surprising if such organisations tried to ferment dissi-



A Delta II rocket lifts off from Cape Canaveral Air Station carrying the Stardust

Angola postpones elections over renewed civil war

LUANDA (R) — Angola's overdue presidential elections have been postponed again because of the flareup of the country's longrunning civil war, a spokesman for the country's ruling party said Monday.

Joao Lourenco, secretary-general of the Popular Movement for Liberation of Angola (MPL-A): told state radio the vote, delayed since 1995, had been put off indefinitely.

"One of the conditions for elections is peace," ourence said, blaming the

possibility to have either legislative or presidential elections." he said.

Angola's 1994 peace accord collapsed December after the MPLA government, frustrated with UNITA's lack of compliance with the peace terms, launched an offensive against the rebels' centrai highland headquarters.

Government troops were quickly rebuffed and since then UNITA has scored some victories over the Luanda government.

"Savimbi reignited the The last election in

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos won 49.6 per cent of the vote against 40.7 per cent for Savimbi. The MPLA also won a majority in legislative elections, tak-

ing 54 per cent of the vote to UNITA's 34 per cent. Elections scheduled for 1995 were delayed in July of that year by parliament, citing the need for national

reconciliation. Since then UNITA has rejected the results of the 1992 vote and has refused to recognise the legitimacy of the president or the leg-

Luanda told Reuters that Lourenco's statement was hardly surprising given the climate of war, adding that it would be "almost impossible" to hold a poll in the current conditions.

war so he has put off the Angola was in 1992.

drafted in Beijing.

Zhao's comments set the

It was the first official Chinese word on last month's ruling by Hong Kong's Court of Final Appeal giving right of abode to illegitimate children of Hong Kong residents and children born before

The ruling opens Hong Kong's doors to tens of thousands of mainland Chinese. Zhao, speaking privately to reporters during a Lunar New Year reception, did not

unprecedented challenge to Outspoken Hong Kong legal experts and made clear Hong Kong's courts, a top opposition politician Emily it mirrored Beijing's line. were a threat to the territory.

> "I think this is the most serious crisis since the change of sovereignty," she "They need to understand

the ruling by four Chinese drafters of the Basic Law Sunday brought howis of protest from Hong Kong legal experts who said it bordered on interference by Beijing.

"When we see strong language used in accusations levelled against the Court of Final Appeal judgment, we become worried." Lee said, referring to Sunday's criticisms.

"We hope the central gov-

its hands off Hong Kong's British-style judicial system after 1997.

criticism by the four Chinese

with the government view," he said. "We must support the Basic Law, The Basic Law cannot be changed," Zhao said. Other cabinet officials at

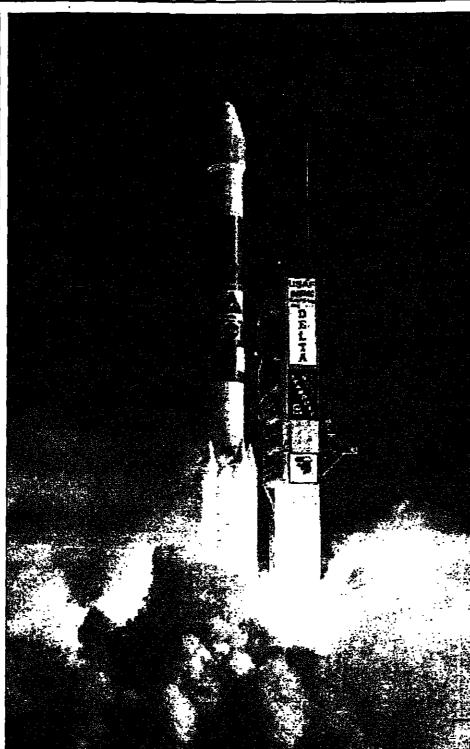
the reception made clear that Beijing's objection to the ruling was not political. Rather, it reflected a desire to protect Hong Kong's crisis-hit economy.
The Hong Kong govern-

ment has also come out against the ruling, saying a sudden influx from the mainland would add a grave burden to the territory.

Over the past 20 years, many Hong Kong businessmen have acquired a mistress and second family in China, where they have invested. Children of these unions are now growing up. and would compete for jobs if they were allowed entry to

Hong Kong. In Hong Kong. 100 main-land Chinese with two-way visas Monday entered the fourth day of a protest outside government headquarters to demand immediate residency rights.

The government has said the protesters must return home to apply for Hong Kong residence and prove



spacecraft. Stardust plans to collect and return dust particles from a newly discovered comet (Reuters photo)

China challenges H. Kong court on immigration

BELJING (R) — In an Beijing would take. Monday hit out at a ruling that opens the way to mass immigration from the main-

"The decision of the Hong Kong court was a mistake and against the Basic Law," said Zhao Qizheng, director of the State Council Information Office. He was referring to Hong Kong's post-colonial constitution

"It is a very serious mat-ter," he said. "This decision should be changed."

stage for the first constituconfrontation between Hong Kong and Beijing since the territory was handed back to China by Britain in 1997.

either of their purents became residents.

the importance of judiciary independence, which is enshrined in the Basic Law. This is a serious blow to the judiciary," Lau said. Earlier, public criticism of

Hong Kong opposition leader Martin Lee said if Beijing directly expressed such views it could trigger a constitutional crisis.

ernment will not actually adopt such attitudes." he Beijing promised to keep

But Zhao stood behind the

YANGON (R) - Japanese and Britisl'ı veterans of World War Il held a joint memorial service Mon day at a new Japanese

KIEV (AP) — Five people driving across a frozen river in western Ukraine drowned early Monday after their van fell through the ice, officials said. Five other passengers in the Volkswagen van managed to escape. The y were crossing the Turiya river near the village of Velym the in the western Volyn region, an Emergency Situations Ministry spokesman said. Rescue workers lifted the van and one body from the river's bottom by noon Monday, while the other four bodies remained under water, the spokesman said.

NEWS IN BRIEF French farmers ransack

environment minister's office

PARIS (AFP) — French police detained dozens of farmers who ransacked a mi nisterial office and offices at an elite university in Paris Monday in protest at plans to tax the use of certain pesticides. Around 100 farmers burst into the offices of Environment Minister Dominique Voynet and later stormed the nearby of fices of the civil service training school known as ENA, police headquarters said. The protesters issued a statement de claring: "The minds of senior officials have always been clossed to the real problems faced by farmers." Police headquarters described the protesters as "violent" and said they hurled "small stones and other missiles" at the police and did "much damage" to the ministry offices before they were arrest ed. Speaking in the Atlantic coast city of Nantes, Voynet accu sed protesters of intimidating her staff and described their actions as unacceptable. Behaviour like this does them no cred it," she said. "One might ask who is manipulating them." One of Voynet's senior aides, Vincent Jacques Le Seigneur said I that about 200 protesters ransacked her office. The floor is c overed in flour and filling cupboards have been thrown dow.n." Le Seigneur added. There the demonstrators issued a statement saying they wanted "to protest against proposals to tax the use of pesticides". Police said only 100 people were involved in the attack on both buildings. The protests coincided with demonstrations in the provinces, notably in east em France.

Brussels bears with old measures another 10 years

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The use of the old Anglo-Saxon feet and inches and pounds and ounces as measurements for goods sold in the European Union (EU) will be authorised for another decade under European Commission proposals published Monday. Under legislation first agreed in 1979, EU member states are theoretically comi nitted to the exclusive use of the metric system for all meast trements, with certain exceptions such as the use of miles for road distances and pints for beer and milk in Britain and Irelar. d. Additional measurements were first allowed up until 1989, then 1999 and, under the latest proposals, will be allowed to continue until 2009. Industry Commissioner Martin Bange: mann said the decision to allow labelling in both systems to continue reflected the concern of U.S. manufacturers that they would be obliged to produce different labels for the U.S. and European markets. "We wish to spare industry unnecessary dit ficulties," he said. The commissioner however urged the Uni ted States to join the rest of the industrialised world in switchi ag to the metric system.

Pakistani court bails police officers in Murtaza Bhullto murder case

KARACHI (AFP) — Fourteen Pakistani police officers facing trial over the murder of form er Premier Benazir Bhumo's brother Mir Murtaza Bhutto we'r e released on bail on Monday, lawyers said. Judge Yasmin Abb asi granted bail to 14 of the 17 jailed officers after there was n o substantive progress in the case over the past two years, the y said. Three officers, including the ex-chief of intelligence bureau Masood Sharif and police officers Wajed Durrani an d Rai Tahir, were denied bail. The reasons for the rejection were not known but lawyers said they could appeal to superior courts. Under Pakistani law, a prisoner facing trial is granted statutory bail if his or her case shows no substantive progress within two years of arrest, lawyers said. In the Murtaza Bhu to murder case, only 12 out of 223 prosecution witnesses have testified since the trial began in early 1997. All the jailed men have spent two years in jail. The key accused, Benazir's hus hand Asif Ali Zardari, was granted bail on medical grounds re-cently, but remains in prison facing several other criminal and corruption charges. Former Karachi police chief Shoaib Sude the was granted bail in the same case in December 1996. Two other police officers and former Sindh chief minister Abdu! lah Shah are listed as fugitives in the case that rocked the Birutto government and eventually led to Benazir's dismissal. Murtaza and seven of his political colleagues were killed in a police shootout near his seaside Clifton residence in September 1996, two months before the dismissal of Benazir's zovernment on charges of corruption and misrule. He was a political rival to his sister

Christians in Colombo demand end to attacks in India

COLOMBO (AP) - Nearly 2,000 Christians silently marched to the Indian embassy in the Sri Lankan capital Monday, demanding an end to attack is on Christians in neighbouring India. The protesters prayed at a church before marching 300 metres to the embass / carrying placards reading: "Please Protect Indian Christian's." They later dispersed.
"We regret the fact that these attacks are orchestrated by groups closely associated with the ruling BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) government. We urge the Indian government to provide protection to all religious minorities," said Harim Peiris, a spokesman for the Christ ian Consultation of Sri Lanka. Most of the attacks on Chr. stians in recent months have been in the Indian states of Gujarat and Orissa where radical Hindu groups have reportedly targeted Christian missionaries, a charge they deny.

Japanese, British war veterans meet in Myarımar

war cemetery in a Yangon suburb near areas where they fought fiercely against each other my re than 50 years ago. About 350 Japanese war veterans, the ir families, and members of the Burma Campaign Fellow: ship Group in Britain, attended the ceremony sponsored by the All-Burma Veterans Association of Japan, Myanmar officia ls said, British ambassador Robert Gordon and his Japane te counterpart Kazuo Asakai also joined the gathering at the Mayway Japanese War Cemetery about 32-km north of Yangon, Myanmar officials said it was only the second joint ceremony between the two former foes on the site of a bandefield in Myanmar. Their first meeting was in February 1997 at an old Japanese cemetery at Kyandaw in Yangon. Over 190,000 Japanese and 37,000 Allied soldiers, mainly from Britain, Australia, New Zealand and India, died in battles in Myanmar during World War II.

Five drown in car in Ukraine

Analysis say, however, the two sides will once islature. again fight to a standstill. renewed conflict on Jonas as they have done repeat-Savimbi, leader of the edly since independence rebel National Union for from Portugal in 1975, and the Total Independence of then seek renewed peace

S. Leone president to let jailed rebel chief speak to his men

President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah of Sierra Leone has agreed to allow rebel chief Foday Sankoh, who is jailed under a death sentence, to hold talks with members of his movement who are fighting pro-government

In a public radio address late Sunday, Kabbah said he would "allow Foday Sankoh to have a face-to-face meeting" with members of the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF), who first launched a guerrilla war in 1991 and have been fighting successive governments ever since.

Kabbah said the meeting would be held "at a suitable venue to be determined," but gave no other details. Diplomatic sources

described Kabbah's broadcast as a first step towards holding peace talks between his administration and the Kabbah himself said he would like to reopen dia-

logue with the RUF. The idea is to give them an opportunity to consult and let us know how they intend to facilitate the peace process," he said.

Sankoh has been detained at an unknown location after being sentenced to death on for his role in collaborating with an ousted junta, which toppled Kabbah in 1997 and was in turn routed from Freetown by the west African intervention force, ECOMOG, in February

Members of the RUF and what he called, "civil soci-

their ex-junta allies invaded Freetown on Jan. 6. The rebels fought for control of the capital for two weeks, before being forced by ECOMOG to retreat to adjacent hills and surrounding suburbs.

have continued to launch sporadic attacks in the city, however.

A day after the invasion, Kabbah announced that he and Sankoh had agreed to a ceasefire. But RUF field commander Sam Bockarie, rejected the truce. Bockarie instead demanded that he meet Sankoh "face-to-face on neutral ground."

Sunday, Kabbah said the government would urge the RUF to "come up with a clear position," regarding a peace settlement. The president said the

government wanted the Abidjan Peace Accord, a short-lived deal which Kabbah and Sankoh signed in 1996, to be used as "a frame of reference for a peace settlement in which we hope this time the RUF will be sincere." Under the accord, the

RUF would be recognised as a bona fide political movement. Its members would be granted amnesty and reintegrated into socitreason charges in October ety. The measures would follow a disarmament and demobilisation of all combatants.

> Kabbah said he had been "holding a series of consultations on the issue" but did President Kabbah urged

ety groups to begin consul-tations immediately to try to build a national consensus on how government should conduct the peace process on the basis of the Abidjan Peace Accord." "All armed attacks against Smaller groups of rebels

the people of Sierra Leone must cease and the rebels should present no precondi-tions for dialogue," he said.
"In light of this consensus and notwithstanding actions

by the rebels to derail all my initiatives for achieving peace, I wish to state that my government is prepared to continue its efforts for dialogue," he went on.

Meanwhile, ECOMOG

soldiers arrested an undisclosed number of people in Freetown in a crackdown against "suspected collaborators" late last week. The soldiers also seized a large quantity of weapons in

the city in a series of "cordon and search operations." said ECOMOG spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Chris Olukujade. "Hiding ammunition for anyone is equal to being a rebel and for the number of civilians arrested so far, it is

appalling that such a degree

of collaboration still exists,"

Olukulade declared. Despite claims that ECO-MOG has cleared the city, pockets of rebels have continued to wreak havoc on the civilian population, and one group of rebels were intercepted last week heading towards Kabbah's residence, AFP reported. As of January 23, more than 3,000 dead bodies were collected

off the streets of the capital.

say what steps, if any. Vatican judge closes Swiss Guard murder case

closed the case against a Swiss Guard accused of killing his commander before committing suicide

iast year. According to the official version, Cedric Tornay, 23, killed Alois Estermann and his wife Gladys Meza Romero, a Venezuelan diplomat, in their apartment on May 4. and then killed himself

Tornay carried out the act in

a fit of madness, embittered

Vatican claims

ROME (AFP) — A Vatican Estermann had taken City magistrate Monday against him. Estermann had just been named commander of the guards.

Vatican magistrate Gianluigi Marrone closed the case saying no new information had come forward to challenge the Vatican's version. Marrone said Tornay was suffering from a brain tumour when he died.

Details of the inquiry, published Monday, said Tornay was subject to psychological problems which could have been linked to by disciplinary action the tumour. It said traces of

found in his body.

The inquiry also found Tomay had spent the day of the killing on hours of guard duty starting at 6:00 a.m. adding to his levels of stress and mental confusion. Tornay's mother Sunday

announced she had proof her son's suicide was in fact murder as part of a plot against all three. The official version is full of deceit, contradictions

and lies which hide a proba-

bly inadmissible truth." she

told II Messagero newspa-

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MARY TONSACK tionister's office

Mais poistricff.cer **ar to** marger case

marauders. "The image of barbaric Germanic tribes invading and plundering the Roman empire and causing its downfall will need to be revised somewhat. at least as far as the south-

east of the Netherlands is concerned," said lead researcher Rene Proos.

"What has dominated the way people have looked at this period has to do with the classical writings from Rome and other regions on the basis of hearsay," he said.

"They wrote down terrible stories. But what we've found doesn't really support this."

Over about 100 years, simple homes that housed Germanic agricultural workers sprang up near a Roman villa, suggesting that so-called barbarians adjusted well to the highly organised and complex Roman society, the

archaeologists said. While Germanic tribes unquestionably earned their barbaric reputation in the Balkans and the easternmost parts of the Roman empire, there's no sign that they rampaged their way through the northern Low Countries,

Proos said. "If it happened, we should have found weaponry. arrowheads. traces of fire and pieces of mutilated bodies. We

haven t," he said. "The stories of violence and bloodshed must be taken with a big grain of

ceedings on closed-circuit television in a separate radar-jamming jet. building. "The goal is to find out

Marine Capt. Richard Ashby (right) walks to court with his mother Carol Ann Anderson, for his court martial in

the deaths of 20 people killed when his jet sheered through lift cables over an Italian ski resort last February. Ashby is charged with 20 counts of involuntary manslaughter, along with destruction of property and dereliction of duty.

In the back are family friend Dodie Hewett and William Anderson, his mother's husband (Reuters photo)

come to head with pilot's trial

what happened. But most importantly, they want to see an end from this," said John Eaves, an attorney representing seven German families and a Polish fami-In her opening statement,

Months of preparation

present in the courtroom

Others watched the pro-

when the trial began.

CAMP LEJEUNE. North

Carolina (AP) — A Marine

pilot whose jet severed an

Italian gondola cable, killing 20 people, was a

good stick" but made a bad

choice to fly too low and

too fast, a prosecutor said

Monday at his court-mar-

"He made a bad deci-

sion," Lt. Carol Joyce said

in her opening statement at

court-martial on 20 invol-

"It's like an individual

who gets up in the morning

... and decides he's going to

speed," she said. "Capt. Ashby needs to be held

Ashby, 31, of Mission

Viejo, California, was at the

controls of the EA-6B

Prowler jet on Feb. 3, 1998,

when its wing cut the cable supporting the Mount Cermis gondola. The 20

people aboard were killed.

AMSTERDAM (AP) -

Monday they have unearthed new evidence

that Germanic tribes -

typically portrayed as

bloodthirsty barbarians

- actually lived peace-

fully with the Romans in

An excavation of

Roman ruins near the vil-

lage of Voerendaal in the

uncovered the remains of

crude wooden dwellings

used by Germanic farm-

ers who worked for

Roman landowners, the

Dutch State Service for

Significantly, there are

no traces of a violent con-

quest by the Germanic

intruders, and none have

been found in recent

excavations elsewhere in

the region, archaeologists

They said the finds.

dated to the end of the

third century A.D., chal-

lenge the frequent

Germanic peoples were

that

Archaeological

said.

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assumption

Investigations said.

Netherlands

parts of northern Europe.

Archaeologists

southern

About a half-dozen rela-

New evidence suggests

Germanic tribes were

pleasant neighbours

said

have

Richard Ashby's

manslaughter

Joyce described the day of the tragedy as "a beautiful day for skiing. It was a beautiful day for flying. "How was it that these

two worlds met? - through an act of negligence," she

squadron was based at Cherry Point Marine Air Station in North Carolina, was on his second tour of duty at Aviano air base in Italy when the accident

occurred. She said by all accounts tives of the victims were Ashby was "a good stick"

- an experienced pilot recklessly low and fast in whose flying skills were so good he had been selected to fly F-18 fighter jets. The Prowler he was flying is a

Ashby violated four sets of rules the day of the tragedy, said Joyce, and he was well aware of the restriction that pilots should not fly lower than 300 metres. The cable that Ashby's jet struck was suspended 113-metres above the ground.

Joyce said the Marine Corps had imposed the 300metre minimum altitude on all flights in Italy after a 1996 accident involving

another low-flying Prowler. "There had been a policy Joyce said Ashby, whose change. This one was written in blood," she said. Twenty-two Italians who

say they saw Ashby's jet flying too low and too fast over a village were expected to be witnesses.

A military investigation the result of the crew flying

violation of flight rules. Ashby's attorneys said he

didn't know the cable was there because it wasn't on the government map he was using, and an optical illusion may have made him think he was flying higher than he was.

Ashby faces a maximum sentence of more than 200 years in prison if convicted of the manslaughter counts, as well as charges of destruction of private and military property and dereliction of duty.

Ashby's navigator, Capt. Joseph Schweitzer, 31, of Westbury, New York, faces the same charges as Ashby, plus 20 counts of negligent homicide. His trial is scheduled to begin March 1.

Both aviators also are charged with obstruction of iustice involving a missing personal videotape shot during the flight.

Charges against the concluded the deaths were Prowler's two back seat crewmen were dismissed.

Infertile British couple considering cloning

LONDON (R) — A young British couple desperate to have a child are considering cloning, they said Monday.

Peter Blackburn and his wife, Ildiko, have been trying for a baby for eight years. All the latest fertility treatments have failed so they think cloning could be their best option.

"I'm not comfortable with the idea of there being 10,000 little 'me's.... Whether or not technology could produce a child identical to my wife or genetically identical to me, that's really not the issue. It's a child," Blackburn said in the BBC television docuprogramme mentary

Panorama. The birth of Dolly the sheep, the world's first cloned animal, in 1997 led to fears that the technique could be used to create a super race and sparked a moral debate about the feasibility of creating humans in laboratories.

Lord David Alton, a member of the Britain's House of Lords (upper house), told Panorama there would be enormous ethical difficulties in human cloning.

There is a real danger here that what we create will not be new human beings in any sense that we understand a human being to be but a cloned person who won't be authentically human but won't be anything else either, a sort of living dead if you like," he said

But Blackburn is undeterred, insisting that all the child would share with a parent would be its genetic structure.

"Maybe there would be similarities but there are always similarities... clones have been around from the very beginning. Is it three in a thousands births are actu-

ally identical twins?" Human cloning is illegal in Britain but other countries have little or no regulation on the practice for reproductive purposes.

Dr. Lee Bo Yon, of the Kyung Hee Medical Centre in Seoul, claimed he had cloned the first human embryo in December using spare eggs from patients undergoing fertility treatments. He aborted the experiment after the human embryo divided into four

"I didn't start the experiment out of playful curiosity. I think this technique will help infertile patients a great deal and eventually will benefit many people... many of the concerns are exaggerated out of a misunderstanding of human cloning," he said in the documentary.

Kosovo talks zero in on key autonomy details

RAMBOUILLET. France accord is reached, have (R) — Yugoslav Serbs and ethnic Albanians Monday studied detailed international proposals to establish wide-ranging autonomy for Kosovo as a key step towards bringing peace to the troubled Serbian province.

The two delegations, in their second full day of talks, were working out of separate rooms on different floors of a 14th century chateau and have so far refused to negotiate faceto-face.

French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine stressed Monday that the process complex expressed doubt about the chances of a successful outcome.

"I cannot be optimistic, because it is very complicated and there are no easy issues in these discussions," he told reporters at a briefing in nearby Paris.

The warring parties, negotiating under the threat of NATO attacks if no

been given a maximum of two weeks to strike a deal to end 11 months of violence in the southern Serb province.

They were handed initial elements of a peace plan Sunday which the sixnation Contact Group on the former Yugoslavia believes will establish the firm framework for a settlement.

Among the first elements to be broached were constitutional matters, electoral procedures and how any eventual accord should be monitored. Several European coun-

tries and the United States have indicated they would be ready to send up to 30,000 NATO ground troops to Kosovo to underpin a peace treaty.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen said Monday Washington would only be prepared to commit soldiers if the Rambouillet delegations came up with a

"The agreement must be real. None of us would contemplate what we call a non-permissive environment, namely we would be there to keep peace, not to make peace," Cohen told reporters after meeting German Defence Minister

Rudolf Scharping. "President (Bill) Clinton has indicated that under those circumstances, if NATO should decide to commit land forces to keep that peace, we would participate, but the majority of the burden should be borne by European countries," he

added.

The Contact Group - the United States, France, Britain, Russia, Italy and Germany — has called for a three-year interim period of autonomy for Kosovo, maintenance of Serbian territorial integrity and clearly defined safeguards for all the ethnic groupings in the province.

The Serbs and ethnic Albanians studied the first chapters of the plan late into Sunday night and started work again early Monday, calling in outside advisers to look at the legal implications of the draft.

"This is not like school. There are no bells going off telling the delegates to get to their classes," one diplomat remarked.

A trio of mediators, U.S. envoy Chris Hill, Russian diplomat Boris Mayorsky and European Union envoy Wolfgang Petritsch, were on hand to help negotiate between the two opposing camps.

But sources close to one delegation said his colleagues were still poring over the Contact Group document and had not yet engaged in talks with the three mediators.

While Serbs Kosovo as the birthplace of much of their culture, religion and history, some 90 per cent of the population of î consists ethnic Albanians, whose leaders have called for full independence for the province.

'No breakthrough in Kosovo body impasse'

STIMLJE, Serbia (R) — International ceasefire monitors failed Monday to break a deadlock between Serbian authorities and ethnic Albanians over the return and burial of 40 victims of an alleged massacre in Kosovo.

"We did not get the result we had hoped for," Michael Pedersen Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) told reporters after meeting relatives of the

victims Earlier, Serb investigating judge Marinkovic offered to release the bodies, held for lengthy examination, in batches of eight to 10 over the next few days.

But relatives of the ethnic Albanian victims from the nearby village of Racak are

insisting the bodies be Serbs took the bodies handed back together and are refusing to come to the provincial capital Pristina, 30-km to the north, to

reclaim them. Discovery of the bodies last month caused international outrage. International monitors said

they were massacred by security forces but Serbian authorities denied this, saying they had been killed in a battle. One of the relatives, gath-

ered in the office of the main ethnic Albanian party, the Democratic League of Kosovo, said: "We don't trust the Serbs. We are afraid they will say after handing over eight or 16. bodies that that's all there' were."

Another relative, Suleiman Halili, said: "The together from the Racak mosque. We are insisting they come back together to the mosque. We want the bodies all together, or we won't take them at all." he

The relatives are also insisting that the bodies be buried together, while the Serb authorities, concerned over the negative publicity a mass funeral would provide, are insisting they be

placed in different graveyards. The Albanians said they wanted to bury the victims in the nearby hamlet of Cester. Ceasefire monitors from the OSCE are worried that the area is now close to Serb positions and any ceremony there would be dan-

added.

gerous.

is that they want the Serb forces to withdraw from the area during the ceremony. The OSCE is concerned

that both the Serb authorities and ethnic Albanian activists in the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) might be using the bodies for their own political ends. with the relatives squeezed in the middle.

The OSCE issued a statement last week urging both sides to resolve the dispute and allow the bodies to be buried with dignity.

The continued sparring came as Serbs and ethnic Albanians studied international proposals at peace talks in France aimed at ending conflict in Kosovo, where some 2,000 people have been killed and 250,000 made homeless in The Albanians' response the past year.

French officials on trial in AIDS blood scandal

PARIS (R) — Three French ex-cabinet officers including former Prime Minister Laurent Fabius stand trial in Paris on manslaughter charges Tuesday, giving victims of a 1980s scandal over AIDS-tainted blood a long-delayed day in court.

Fabius and one-time health ministers Edmond Herve and Georgina Dufoix are accused of negligence in the management of blood banks blamed for infecting thousands of people, many of them haemophiliacs, with the dread AIDS virus

during 1984-85. The unprecedented case, brought by seven victims of the scandal of whom five are now dead, will test for the first time in France whether ministers can be held criminally accountable for the actions of their subordinates.

Each of the ministers faces up to five years in prison and 500,000 francs take temporary leave from (\$86,000) in fines if convicted. All three have declared their innocence. Their alleged crimes date

back to a time when evidence was first piling up that AIDS was a deadly killer that could be transmitted by blood transfusions and the blood-derived products haemophiliacs use to control bleeding. At least 3,600 people

were infected with the AIDS virus as a result of the scandal and at least a thousand of these have since died, according to Olivier Duplessis, president of the AFT group representing transfusion recipients.

Fabius. France's youngest prime minister when in office from 1984 to 1986, was widely considered presidential material until the scandal cast a shadow across his career.

Now 52, he has had to

his post as National Assembly speaker to stand trial. politicians Numerous

have complained ahead of the trial that ministers should not have to answer to the courts, even though a new tribunal, the court of justice of the Republic, has been created to judge cabinet members accused of

official wrongdoing. Some have even suggested that Fabius, a Jew, was a

victim of anti-Semitism. But Sylvie Rouy, one of the two surviving defendants, reacted angrily to the way some people were questioning the victims' motives rather than showing compassion for their

"I must accept that I have AIDS, although I did not seek it," she said.

"Mr Fabius must also assume his responsibility."

The ex-ministers are accused of complicity in a decision to delay screening blood donations for AIDS for about five months in mid-1985 until a French-

made test became available. Although an Americanmade test was available from March 1985, France kept it off the market until after approving a rival product developed by its own Pasteur Institute.

The three are also accused of responsibility for the continued distribution of state-made blood products to haemophiliacs until October 1985 although it knew from November 1984 that these were tainted with AIDS and safe alternatives

were widely available. The victims' lawyers say they will show during the three- to four-week trial that the trio knew of their subordinates' actions and were aware of the risks.

U.K. dampens talk of Mitchell recall to N. Ireland

most senior minister in Northern Ireland said Monday she was reluctant to ask former U.S. Senator George Mitchell back to Belfast to mediate over a deadlock in the province's peace process.

"I know George Mitchell has taken a continuing interest in the process. I know he has got a young family and he gave two years of his life here to Northern Ireland," Mo Mowlam told reporters, reflecting on the work Mitchell did as chairman of marathon

agreement last April. "So I am reticent to ask because he is such a good man - (that) he would come," she

peace talks which spawned an

Irish Deoury Prime Minister

BELFAST (R) — Britain's Mary Harney said Sunday that Mitchell should help resolve outstanding differences over whether Sinn Fein should be allowed to take seats in a new ruling executive before its Irish Republican Army (IRA) allies start disarming.

But Northern Ireland's Protestant, pro-British leader David Trimble said recalling Mitchell was only one of several options available to peacemakers whose efforts have been thwarted.

"There's a whole lot of its and a whole lot of contingencies before that issue would arrive," he told BBC radio.

But if they took the option of reviewing the process - a move Britain and Ireland have made clear they would be reluctant to make - Mitchell

could be called in, he added.

"The review can be conducted by the British government or both governments jointly or by bringing in a neutral third party and then George Mitchell could be considered in that context."

Irish Catholic republicans to compromise in their dispute over giving up guerrilla weapons, referred to as "decommissioning".

Mowlam Sunday urged both

the Protestant majority and

"Now, decommissioning is part of the Good Friday Agreement, it's not a precondition but it is an obligation," Mowlam said.

"So there is a bit of right on both sides." Monday she said: "I am sure people will do all they can to help the party lead-

ers talk but... what has to be done is that the Good Friday Agreement has to be implemented."

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams said it was too soon to call in Mitchell and the solution was to implement the deal. which stipulates a target completion date for disarming the province's array of armed groups of May 2000, but gives no start date.

Trimble insists the IRA must start disarming before Sinn Fein takes its seats in the executive.

The accord builds stronger links between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic and allows for a devolution of power, but no handover of sovereignty from London to

An independent Asah pointed daily published in English by the kurdan Press Formaliston Established 1975 جوردن تأيمز يومية عربية سباسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة المسعمية الاردنية

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Grieving but proud

THE SUPPORT and expressions of solidarity that Jordan has received on both the regional and international fronts yesterday has certainly been reassuring. While Jordanians expressed their grief over the loss of His Majesty King Hussein, they equally rallied to pledge allegiance to his chosen heir, His Majesty King Abdullah.

The Arab World and the international communities wasted no time in demonstrating their support for Jordan in its moment of sadness.

Some would say that the outpouring of support from Jordan's friends indicates that potential problems lie ahead. But if we. are to place faith in what Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu said yesterday while in Amman to attend King Hussein's funeral, perhaps a new era is dawning. Netanyahu told Israel radio from Amman: "The fact that we all came here to signal our commitment to a real peace in the Middle East convinced me I must try to achieve a new beginning to broaden the efforts for peace and make it real."

It can genuinely be said that King Hussein's legacy as the champion of peace humbled even the mighty yesterday as Jordan laid its King to rest.

The work ahead — to achieve peace between Arabs and Israelis, to close Arab ranks, to promote democracy - will depend now on the deeds of most of those leaders who came to bid their neighbour and friend farewell.

HRH Prince Abdullah, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, expressed his country's total commitment to the well-being of Jordan, further consolidating and enhancing a reconciliation process that started in the days of King Hussein. Such expression of fraternity will certainly place Jordan firmly at the heart of its nation as Prince Abdullah said.

The support that Jordan also got from other world leaders especially in the West must also be seen as both solidarity with Jordan but also as an expression of faith in peace in the region which King Hussein spent his lifetime pursuing and advocating.

Yesterday will certainly enter into the contemporary annals of world history as Hussein's day. It brought the world together in the memory of a great man for which we Jordanians take pride.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'l's Fahed Fanek quoted His Majesty King Abdullah, before he became either King or heir, as saying to an Arab magazine that Jordan does not need a King nor a Crown Prince. If Jordan has lost His Majesty King Hussein, the country has earned King Abdullah II, he said. God gave us Al Hussein and was generous enough to enable him to lead the Kingdom for 47 years, the longest period for any current leader. Fanek added. However, everything has an end. which came gradually to the King over seven months, during which time Jordanians became aware of and understood the inevitable. But nothing could have prevented the sadness of loosing Al Hussein, and, the writer said, people have the right to feel bereaved as if they had lost their father or mother. Although, modern Jordan was created by Al Hussein, the Kingdom was created to last forever under the leadership chosen by him, and determined by the Constitution, said Fanek. Luckily, the King's legitimacy and the loyalty for his leadership can be transferred to his successor, chosen by him, the writer said and added that the young King Abdullah will neither start from zero nor work in a void because he enjoys the loyalty from those who gave their loyalty to his father. Destiny has decided that Jordan is the first among the Arab countries a younger generation will assume leadership, and if Al Hussein is absent in body, his significant achievements, wise polices and courageous stands will remain for ever. The whole world will remember Al Hussein for his achievements as a peacemaker, while Jordanian citizens will recall his achievements in building a modern state.

Al Dustour's Mazen Saket said Arab and international solidarity with Jordan in the past few weeks expresses His Majesty King Hussein's position as an historical leader. It also supports historical facts, that will allow the country to strengthen its relations with the Arab World, cooperation and economic exchange and encourage investment, Saket said. This should encourage the government to event efforts in order to establish a basis from which to support and develop such relations, the writer said. These efforts should help solve the problems of the Kingdom's debts. Jordanian human resources in the Gulf states, local exports and Arab participation in the local economy. The government has an important chance that needs studied action in order to be successful.

The ongoing legacy of King Hussein

FAITH IN the humanity of still laden with smoke and the mankind, faith in the rising returns of giving, faith in the future of Jordan, faith in the mutual benefits of trade and exchange, and faith that all things work toward a better world are all essential to a successful free market system in Jordan. They are all indispensable for sustaining the spirit of work and enterprise against the setbacks and inevitable frustrations that are met in an increasingly global environment. This is the ongoing legacy of His Majesty King Hussein.

His Majesty was practising altruism before preaching it. inspiring trust in an economy that was yet too small and too young. encouraging the foregoing of vendettas and cherishing the forgiveness of the strong, believing that nations would flourish more when they have benevolent sympathies toward each other, giving up pleasures for the sake of a country whose future was still unknown, building systems and establishments when the air was

fruits of distrust and hate, rewarding when he could have easily confiscated and banished, and smiling in the face of those who pained him only to ensure that the peoples of a country and a region would survive.

In his deeds we learn that to be like bim, we must give without the assurance of return; save without the certainty of the future value; work beyond the requirements of the job; and have faith in a higher morality. a higher law beyond our immediate distractions and struggles for existence. Thus, he delivered a larger institution of diligence, integrity, and rationality than all institutions, he taught us, Jordanians, to have faith.

In economics, there is a wellknown doctrine called the policyineffectiveness-proposition, which basically proclaims policy-makers are ineffective in dealing with a market economy because of the lag or slowness of their reaction to market changes. In His Majesty's

case, the proposition was reversed. His ideals of liberty, equality. peace and comity inspire the world. Yet, he never invited efforts to impose them by means of compulsion or by the agency of undemocratic power. He led the country, formed policy, and was ahead of all of Jordan in terms of his vision: for free men to live in a free society it must also be a just society. Even when he knew fully well that certain actions would bring about adverse results he submitted and walked with his countrymen and bore the brunt, a brave soldier to the core buoved by faith in the destiny of his people. At other times, he moved faster than we wished him to, only to find out later that he was right. Throughout, we learnt to have faith in his leadership and ourselves. He was always clear when he spoke to us, thus giving us impetus for growth without burdening us with the rules of intellectual eloquence, etiquette or pre-



He taught that quality of thought and spirit overshadow the quantities of labour and capital, that hard work is the root of wealth, that the flesh of human capital can melt fast within the contagion of fears of oppression, and that by reaching to a child you are simultaneously reaching to the future. For twenty years I heard his message while living overseas, and he made me proud as I saw my King in the eyes of the world that so respected him; and when I came back to Jordan my pride was overcome by the love and reverence that lives in every Jordanian's eyes. That is how we learnt to have faith in the man, the father, the King. It may be that the passing of man

is inevitable, and that there is no way to fathom the full potential of a person who lives forever, but there is a way to keep the legacy. In our times of abundance, or when haunted by the spectres of unforeseeable perils, we should try to hold on to the faith so generously proclaimed by such a great man. We should mirror his faith in Jordan and in us and never, never listen to anything greater than the voices of our hearts because that is how he brought Jordan to the zenith of the civilised nations with the heart of man. A heart that hosted the world; a heart that was big enough for millions to take refuge and for children to smile and grow; a heart that knew that faith could move mountains. That is the ongoing legacy of His Majesty King Hussein.

Letters of condolence -

PLEASE ACCEPT my sincere condolences on the death of your King. He will be remembered by the whole world as a fine statesman, world leader and man of honour. Please extend my sympathies to all your peo-

Our prayers are with Queen Noor and the Royal family. May God grant the Kingdom of Jordan peace and prosperity and may your new King have a long and happy reign.

> Don Gabbert San Angelo, Texas

WE CRY for your Great King, Man of Peace

Giulio and Amalia Clivio

AS A LITTLE child studying in Lebanon, I saw and admired King Hussein for his autoracing skills and courage. As a high school student in Lebanon, and after a brief visit to Jerusalem and Jordan, I grew to admire and like King Hussein for his humility and strength. After becoming a naturalised U.S. citizen and graduating from university. I got to admire King Hussein for his humanity, vision, political skills, leadership and absolute devotion to his Jordanian people.

As an executive with a U.S. Corporation, but travelling in various countries of the Middle East. I noticed and appreciated and respected King Hussein's compassion, honesty and forthrightness, specially with his people, attributes that I noticed to be rare among his piers in the Middle East and beyond. Also, my admiration for his humanity and humility deepened further.

As a family man, my admiration and respect for King Hussein continued to grow through the years due to King Hussein's steady course of action that was filled with and guided by the attributes he had amassed in my mind and heart and spirit during my childhood and

Finally in 1987, when I wanted to have my children raised and attend grade school in a Middle Eastern country, I did my research and found out, beyond the shadow of doubt, that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, King Hussein's home, is the oasis of peace, security and pluralism in the Middle East. The decision was easy, thanks to God and to King Hussein's dedication to Jordan and to Jordanians. When my wife and I took a trip to Jordan in November 1987 to look Jordan over, I was greatly surprised and pleasantly shocked by the transformation of Jordan into a modern state, with established well-functioning institutions, respectable and reliable infrastructure and high educational standards. We moved to Jordan, and as if to have your cake and eat it too, we witnessed the democratisation of Jordan, a feat envied by many Arabic people, and an evolution I felt every Jordanian cherishes and is proud

I cannot help but imagine with great sadness and profound regret, if I, a non-Jordanian, was so devastated by the passing away of His Majesty King Hussein, what the Jordanian family and people must be going through in these trying times. Only our faith in God will help us through this tragedy. I am confident that, like me and to a much greater extent, all Jordanians shall never forget their father, the architect of modern Jordan, the man and statesman the world was mourning yesterday. His legacy and stamp shall be forever with us.

I am thankful and for ever grateful to King Hussein, to his immediate family and to his larger Jordanian family. for the beautiful, peaceful and happy 10 years filled of fond memories they gave me and my family while in

Today, we bid our farewell to the man who captured our hearts and our imagination and who had such a big and positive impact on us, human beings from all corners of the world.

To Queen Noor, the Hashemite family and to all Jordanians we express our deepest sorrow and heartfelt condolences. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

We pray to the Almighty God to give King Abdullah the wisdom to shoulder his immense new responsibilities, as his father did before him, with humility, humanity, compassion, courage, strength, love for peace and

> Abdullah Georgi Bseirani & Family Syracuse, New York and

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any issue they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld upon request but only under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing



U.K. military men fondly recall the young cadet King Hussein

By David Ljunggren

HE MIGHT have been a Monarch but to the feared sergeant majors at Britain's elite Sandhurst officer training college, King Hussein of Jordan was just another cheeky cadet to be knocked into shape.

Captain James Russell and other Sandhurst contemporaries of King Hussein, writing in the letters column of the Daily Telegraph newspaper, remember a warm, generous high-spirited man who prompted smiles from the

moment he arrived in 1952. On that first day a sergeant major found His Majesty with two companions and, assuming all were cadets, ordered them to march quickly across the square. The King's companions were in fact the Jordanian prime minister and chief of staff.

Russell recalled one memorable exchange between King Hussein and a particularly intimidating sergeant major named Clutterton. "Mr. King Hussein, Sir."

barked Clutterton. "Sir," replied the King. "You're an idle King this

morning, Sir. Do you hear me Sir? one occasion Clutterton was heard to bawl: "Mr. King Hussein, Sir. Mr. King Hussein, Sir. Where has that Monarch got

to now?" Another contemporary remembered His Majesty being bawled at by a sergeant major called Victor King: "King Hussein, Sir. there are two kings on parade: you, Sir, and I, Sir, and we both know who's the most important King. Don't we, Sir?"

One of King Hussein's favourite pastimes was driving his sky blue Cadillac

around the grounds at high speed with the staff in hot pursuit. One officer remembered how King Hussein would fill the car with fellow cadets on his twice-weekly trips to London.

Major W.S. Sanders-Crook, who

shared a room next to His Majesty, said the primitive hot water supply meant that only one of the two men could shave at the same time.

"I often turned it on deliberately when I heard (King Hussein) getting up, just to hear his explosion of wrath...at other times he would creep out of bed and turn his hot tap on. leaving me to the same fate," he recalled.

"Seconds later, his beaming face would appear round my door. King or not, we all liked him enormously."



The young King Hussein in England (file photo)

Feature

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. leader Clinton,

By Steve Holland

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In the courty and near the mausoleum just before the King was buried. Chaten met briefly with Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Vetanyahu. After the funeral, Chinion was in meet the King's

eldert son and successor. 37-year-old King Abdulich before returning in Washington old first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton paid a condolence call on King

Hussein widow Queen It is not often that an tient brings together the American president and all but one of his living predecessors, but honour. ing the memory of King Huscein, who was so vital

DFLP leader

Friends and foes join together in grief

Agence France Presse

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein, as befitting a lifetime devoted to peace, brought together in his death sworn foes such as U.S. and Iraqi leaders as well as enemies Israel and Syria to unite in mourning Mon-

Syrian President Hafez Assad made a rare foray abroad for the King's state funeral in Amman, although relations between his country and Jordan itself have been

Without previous notice, he was among the last to fly in, after the funeral procession started.

The funeral was the first time that Assad was to appear in public with leaders of Israel, whose peace negotiations with Syria have been frozen since early 1996.

A large Israeli delegation was in Amman for the funeral, headed by President Ezer Weizman and Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu.

Apart from the security worries, the occasion also posed a headache for Jordan's protocol officials having to make arrangements to keep apart Israeli and Arab leaders whose states have no ties.

But despite his opposition to the peace process, radical Palestinian leader Nayef Hawatmeh broke a taboo and shook hands with Weizman, an aide to the Israeli president said.

Unlike the 1995 state funeral of slain Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin when only a handful of Arab leaders took part, notably King Hussein, the Arab World was strongly represented in Amman.

Iraq, whose President Saddam Hussein has not travelled abroad since the 1991 Gulf War over Kuwait, was represented by Vice President Taha Moheiddin Ma'rouf.

Less than two months after the Desert Fox air war waged on Iraq by the United States and Britain, the funeral was bringing together Ma'rouf with both U.S. President Bill Clinton and British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Former U.S. President

George Bush, who led a multinational coalition in evicting Iraq from Kuwait in the Gulf conflict, was also set to provide chilly company for Ma'rouf.

And Sudan, which is under U.S. sanctions for its alleged links to terrorism, sent its President Omar Al Bashir.

Amid the crisis in the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace process, of which King Hussein was a devoted advocate, several Arab leaders who have no links to Israel were also in



attendance, notably from

Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz, representing the ailing Fahd, Bahrain's Emir Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifa and UAE leaders all decided to attend the state funeral. For Jordan itself, the funeral was also set to seal reconciliation with Kuwait, which sent its Crown Prince and Prime Minister Saad Al Abdallah Αl Sabah. Jordan's

embassy in Kuwait is due

to reopen in a few days. Also taking part in the funeral along with an Israeli delegation from across the Jewish state's political spectrum were officials from Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Move-

President counterpart

From another potential conflict zone, Turkey's Demirel was in Amman along with his Cypriot Clerides. 30 per cent of whose country is occupied

at King's funeral Agence France Presse recent years become more moderate, notably com-KING HUSSEIN conpared to hardline PFLP leader George Habash, and has been seeking Israeli permission to return to the

salutes Weizman

tributed to Middle East peace even in death Monday as a key Palestinian foe of peace accords with Israel, Nayef Hawatmeh, warmly greeted Israeli President Ezer Weizman during the Monarch's funeral in Amman, witnesses told Israeli radio.

Hawatmeh, leader of the Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP). offered his hand on seeing Weizman and said: "You are a man of peace, who is working for peace in the Middle East." Weizman aide Arieh Shummer told the radio from Amman.

Weizman "President shook his hand and expressed his hope that Syria and Lebanon would also join the path of peace with Israel," Shummer

The DFLP is a breakaway from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the two main factions of the PLO opposed to the Oslo autonomy agreements signed by

Yasser Arafat with Israel. In 1974, long before the start of the peace process, DFLP guerrillas seized a school in the northern Israeli village of Maalot and killed 21 children and four adults in one of the bloodiest acts of violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Israel radio quoted israeli officials in Amman as saying Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon was outraged that Weizman shook Hawatmeh's hand, calling the Palestinian "the chief of a terrorist organisation whose members are covered in blood."

Sharon, the Israeli government's toughest hawk, was also in Amman in a large delegation that included Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu. But Hawatmeh has in

Palestinian territories so far to no avail, DFLP officials said. Daoud Tilhami, a West

Bank resident and senior member of the DFLP's political bureau, said Hawatmeh's towards Weizman came as no surprise since the movement today has no problem in recognising Israel, the issue is how.

"Our position is clear and has remained the same for the last 25 years. We want an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on the basis of mutual recognition and in accordance with U.N. resolutions," Tilhami said from his home in Ramal-

We have serious criticisms of the Oslo agreements because they are not balanced," Tilhami said.

Unlike the PFLP, whose militants continue to carry out attacks on Israeli interests in the Palestinian territories, the DFLP has refrained from such violence, without formally renouncing it.

At a DFLP congress in May last year, the movement said it was ready to join Arafat's Palestinian Authority in negotiations with Israel on a final status for the Palestinian territo-

Tilhami said that 60 per cent of the DFLP's leadership is now based in the West Bank or Gaza Strip and that Hawatmeh had tried to return to the Palestinian territories but had been refused permission by the Israeli authorities.

Weizman has often criticised Netanyahu's rightwing government for its hardline stance in peace negotiations with Arafat's Palestinian Authority.

Clinton, 3 U.S. ex-presidents attend funeral

By Steve Holland

U.S. PRESIDENT Bill Clinton and three of his predecessors sent a powerful message of solidarity. with Jordan on Monday by attending en masse the funeral of His Majesty King Hussein.

Clinton, together with former presidents George Bush. Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford, attended the solemn ceremonies on the grounds at Raghadan Palace, joining dozens of other world leaders.

As they stood before the casket carrying the late King, who died on Sunday of cancer at age 63. Clinion, Bush, Carter and Ford bowed their heads and paused for a moment.

While other leaders viewed the flag-draped casket inside the palace's Throne Room, Clinton had brief conversations with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and the leaders of Bahrain and Oman. Yemen.

During an earlier reception at the Nadwa Palace inside the Royal complex. Clinton engaged in more international networking. He spoke briefly with a string of foreign leaders, including the obviously ailing Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who stood up and gave Clinton a hug.

Clinton talked to French President Jacques Chirac. Prince Charles of Britain. Palestinian President Yasser Arafut and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. He also spoke with the prime ministers of Britain, Pakistan and Japan.

"Mostly they've been reflecting on King Hussein and what it means to be here," said White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said.

In the courtyard near the mausoleum just before the King was buried, Clinton met briefly with Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu.

After the funeral, Clinton was to meet the King's eldest son and successor. 37-year-old King Abdullah, before returning to Washington.

U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton paid a condolence call on King Hussein's widow. Queen

It is not often that an event brings together the American president and all but one of his living predecessors, but honouring the memory of King Hussein, who was so vital in the Middle East peace process and ruled for 47 years, proved irresistible. "For President Clinton,

it has been a great opportunity to draw upon the vast experience and knowledge that this group has," said Lockhart. "They literally spent the whole day together."

White House National Security Adviser Sandy Berger said the presence of Clinton and the ex-presidents was "an extremely strong statement to the people of Jordan that America stands with them during this difficult time." Only Ronald Reagan

was not among the elite group. Reagan, having turned 88 last week, is deep in the throes of Alzheimer's disease.

The last time the group was together was in November 1997 at the opening of the Bush presidential library in Texas. Nancy Reagan stood in for her husband there.

Shortly after takeoff from Washington on Sunday. Clinton gathered the former presidents into the senior staff cabin on Air Force One and they discussed the Middle East, Kosovo, Russia, North Korea and other issues. Air Force One had to cir-

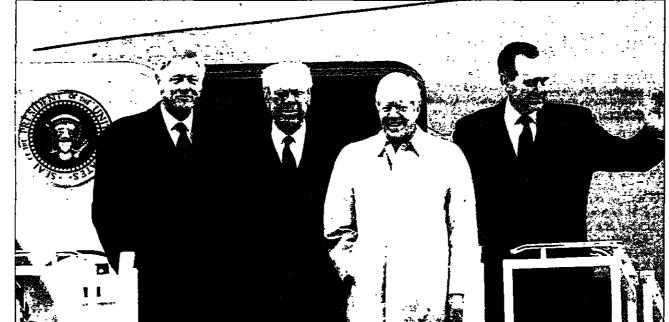
cle the Amman area for 45 minutes because of the logjam of other planes carrying foreign delegations to the funeral. Senior U.S. officials surveying the Middle Eastern

political landscape after the death of King Hussein were optimistic that the peace process would con-Berger called the King a

"transcendent voice" for peace over the last several years and said "obviously we will miss that presence and that voice." "We have lost other tow-

ering figures in the peace process — (Egyptian President Anwar) Sadat, (Israeli) Prime Minister (Yitzhak) Rabin — but the process has gone forward. There have been obviously setbacks, but this is a region that can ultimately make progress only if there is peace."

Of King Abdullah's accession, Berger said: "In many ways this is the front edge of a new generation of leadership in the Middle East that we are going to see over the next decade. I think King Abdullah is well-suited to lead his country."



Jordan-Israel ties to continue under King Abdullah

By Daniel Sternoff Reuters

ISRAEL LOST warmest, Arab friend and an irreplaceable ally in the quest for Middle East peace with the death of His Majesty King Hussein, Sunday.

But Israeli officials and analysts foresee a smooth transition of power in Amman and say relations with Jordan will remain stable under its untested successor, His Majesty King Abdullah.

"Nobody in Jordan will yield the same level of prestige, political experience and influence that the King had," said Shimon Shamir, Israel's former ambassador to Jor-

"But peaceful relations have been formalised, and at least in the short-run I could endanger regime," Shaper do not see problems which

Reuters. Israel and Jordan officially ended nearly 50 years of hostility with a peace treaty signed on Oct. 26, 1994.

That treaty has been reinforced by some 15 bilateral agreements on issues ranging from trade, tourism, communications and water sharing.

Israel's ties with Egypt. the first Arab country to make peace with the Jewish state, have remained cold and moves towards reconciliation with the Palestinians are in crisis. But King Hussein

even as crises in peacemaking deepened domestic opposition to his pursuit of closer ties with

Israel. "He was not only the father of Jordan. In many ways he was a fatherly figure for all of us," said Nobel peace laureate Shimon Peres, who signed the 1994 accord as Israel's foreign minister in the former government of slain Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Israelis remember King Hussein dropping to his knees in a working-class Israeli town to pay condolences to the grief-stricken families of seven Israeli schoolgirls shot dead by a Jordanian soldier in 1997.

That remarkable display of compassion came at a time of soaring tensions between Israel and Jordan over plans by Israel's right-wing Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu to build a Jewish settlement in Arab East Jerusalem.

Such gestures brought King Hussein a store of goodwill which equipped him with a unique capability to cajole Israel and the Palestinians to keep their peace efforts on track.

His intervention helped secure a 1997 agreement on a pullback of Israeli forces in the West Bank town of Hebron, and he rose from cancer treatment in a U.S. clinic to help forge last October's Wye River land-for-secu-

rity interim accord. "The fact that at Wye he warmed Israeli hearts with came as a terminally sick man and made the effort. his personal dedication to had a weight of its own in ending an era of enmity

persuading the sides to overcome difficulties," said Netanyahu's aide

David Bar-Illan. But while King Hussein's personal contributions may be unmatchable, analysts say the cold logic of national interest will keep his policies on

Israel's longest land border is with Jordan and the Kingdom provides a state and one of its most implacable Arab foes,

Iraq.
There are important geopolitical considerations which will guarantee continuity," said Barry Rubin, an analyst at Israel's Begin-Sadat Centre for Strategic Studies.

There are also parallel interests regarding the Palestinians," Rubin said. Any lack of stability in the buffer between the Jewish Israeli-occupied

Jordan, a majority of whose subjects are of Palestinian origin.

Israeli analysts see King Abdullah's background as commander of Jordan's Special Forces as a sign he will win support among the army, the country's traditional bedrock of sup-

Rubin said that King Abdullah, 37, while largely an unknown quantity,

Bank could spill over into has more experience than his father King Hussein had when he was proclaimed king at the age of

17 in 1952. "The most difficult decisions were already made and completed during King Hussein's lifetime. Rubin said.

"The departure of a key leader is less important when the main changes have already been made. he said.



Netanyahu paying his respects to His Majesty King Abdullah at yesterday's funeral (AFP photo)

Kingdom's allies rally round with economic aid

LONDON (R) — Jordan's friends lined up Monday to offer economic aid to help ensure a smooth transition in the Kingdom following the death of King Hussein.

Anxious to show support, the United States, Britain and Japan all pledged help for Jordan, which is labouring under a heavy debt burden, a big budget deficit and slow growth.

"We will be looking at what we can do in terms of economic help and the very strong defence relationship Britain and Jordan," British Prime Minister Tony Blair told Reuters in Amman hours before King Hussein, the Middle East's longestserving ruler, was buried.

Blair said Britain wanted to take its cue from the States, which pledged \$300 million in extra military and economic aid to Jordan as it goes through a difficult transition under His Majesty King Abdullah, King Hussein's eldest son.

President Bill Clinton said Washington would support a substantial rescheduling of Jordan's government-to-government debts through the Paris Club of creditor nations on the basis of a new International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme.

The IMF's current \$331 million loan programme with Amman expires this

King Hussein was laid to

rest on Monday, Japan

pledged an unspecified

financial assistance to

maintain stability in the

spokesman for Japanese

Prime Minister Keizo

Obuchi, said the emer-

gency assistance aims to

highlight the importance

dan's role as a peacemaker

the amount of the aid, but

in the Middle East.'

Numata, a

Kingdom.

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month, and the fund's managing director. Michel Camdessus, promised at the weekend to speed the pace of negotiations on a new package to boost the strug-

gling economy. "Over many years, the Kingdom of Jordan and the IMF have developed a very close and productive rela-tionship. We will take every possible step to maintain and strengthen it," he said.

Economists said a new three-year IMF extended fund facility would provide Jordan more than \$150 million a year and pave the way for Paris Club governments to reschedule their

Jordan grew briskly from 1992 to 1994 as an estimated 300.000 workers ed 300.000 returned from the Gulf and ploughed their savings into the economy. The return followed Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the 1990-91

But the boom petered out and output actually shrank last year, the worst performance since 1989, according to independent economists. The budget deficit grew to 10 per cent and foreign debt rose to \$6.88 billion by the end of October from \$6.53 billion at the end of 1997.

Clinton, who said Washington was working with key allies to mobilise extra dan could also expect addi-

similar to contributions

made in 1995 and 1996

which amounted to \$400

He told the Associated

Press that the figure will

be announced in Tokyo

once the state mourning

Japan is Jordan's finan-

cial bankroller. It spent

around \$1 billion since

1990 on development pro-

jects in a country which

and saddled by high debt.

million in both years.

ends in Jordan.

Japan pledges

aid to Jordan

AMMAN (AP) - As stressed that it might be

He declined to divulge lacks natural resources

Furnished Apartment For Rent:

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Residents Preferred.

A four-bedroom apartment with telephone, in a quiet area in

Um-Nowwara (Eastern Amman), within walking distance from a

tional help from the World Bank.

IMF,

World

Bank

offer help

to Jordan

WASHINGTON (R) — The

International Monetary Fund

(IMF) reached out to grief-

stricken Jordan on Sunday

after the death of King Hus-

sein, promising to speed the pace of loan negotiations to

boost the struggling economy. In a statement offering con-

dolences to King Hussein's family and the people of Jordan, Managing Director Michel Camdessus said IMF

experts already in Amman

were "at the disposal of the

government" to complete negotiations on a three-year

An IMF agreement, which

would condition aid on eco-

nomic reforms and set out new

fiscal and monetary targets, could free up hundreds of mil-

lions of dollars in the coming

months to bolster Jordan's for-

The loan programme might

also clear the way for addition-

al assistance from other donors

and for debt rescheduling with

eign exchange reserves.

major creditors.

loan programme.

Japan, although mired in its deepest recession in half a century, pledged to continue its economic support.

"As Japan is the largest donor to Jordan and the stability of Jordan itself will lead to peace in the Middle East, I think it is important for Japan to play a major role," Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi told reporters before heading for

Saudi Arabia also said it was considering extra aid.
"We are discussing with
Jordanian officials the best way to support the Jordanian economy in a continuation of what the Kingdom had given to Jordan," Finance Minister Ibrahim Abdul Aziz Al Assaf was quoted by the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) as say-

Economic woes have in the past been the spark for unrest in Jordan's poorest southern regions, and economists said financial markets would be alert to any signs of political tension during the transition.

But Ben Rudd, an emerging markets strategist with HSBC in London, said he was sanguine.

Algerian

bourse

opens

Monday -

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's long-delayed stock exchange will open on Feb. 15 to coin-

cide with the partial flotation

of the biggest domestic pharmaceutical firm, Saidal, the

chairman of the market

is now set on Feb. 15. It will

be a strong start," Ali

Boukrami, chairman of

Algerian Securities Commis-

sion (COSOB), told Reuters

He said the timing would

coincide with the flotation of

20 per cent of the capital of

Saidal, which plans to offer

the launch of the bourse

watchdog has said.

in an interview.

World Bank President James Wolfensohn issued a similar tribute. "He was deeply concerned with pover-"We are unlikely to see any great changes in policy, either economic or politi-cal," Rudd said. "We don't ty and with justice for his citizens and he was the major facsee any problems erupting tor of peace in the region," on the near horizon. Wolfensohn said.

"We will continue to give full support to King Abdullah and to the people of Jordan,"

President Bill Clinton has already pledged \$300 million in U.S. aid to help keep Jordan stable during its leadership transition. He said the United States was also working with key allies and Group of Seven nations to mobilise additional

Jordan is also burdened by heavy debt. In the next few years, Amman has obligations to creditors totalling several hundred million dollars. The country still owes the United States \$300 million to \$400 Clinton said the United

States would support a sub-stantial rescheduling of Jordan's debts to bilateral creditors through the Paris Club of creditor nations on the basis of an IMF programme. The World Bank was also preparing to provide additional support, Clinton said.

The World Bank declined to comment on its lending plans for Jordan. But a new IMF accord could open the door for more World Bank lending.

Economists expect Arab Gulf states to aid Jordan's economy

DUBAI (AFP) — The Gulf states are likely to support Jordan's economy, the most pressing task for King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, econo-

mists in the region say. "Even though they face economic prospects because of the continued drop in crude oil prices. I'm convinced that the Arab Gulf states will not hesitate to help the Jordanian economy," said Ihsan Abu Haliqa, an economist and member of Saudi Arabia's Consultative Council.

Help has already come from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which on Friday said it would deposit unspecified funds with Jordan's Central Bank to help fend off speculation on the dinar.

"Jordan's main challenge is economic. The Arab Gulf states, which provide more than 95 per cent of aid to Arab states,

will not let Jordan fight said. alone against its problems," Haliqa said.

"Jordan's gross domes-tic product (GDP) is about \$7.5 billion, some 20 times smaller than Saudi Arabia. Financial aid to Jordan will therefore not be greatly felt by the Gulf states," Haliqa

"I think the other Gulf states will follow the UAE's steps, given the exceptional circumstances in Jordan and its strategic importance," said Jamal Al Sueidi, president of the Emirates Centre for Strategic Research and Studies.

"The Gulf states must support Jordan economically and politically, given its role in the Middle East peace process." he added.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait plan to provide cut-price oil to Jordan, an Amman-based official

Saudi Arabia stopped its oil supplies to Jordan in September 1990 following a deterioration in ties between the two countries, due to Amman's perceived sup-port for Iraq during the

Gulf crisis.
Since then, Jordan has relied entirely on Iraqi oil imports of some 90,000 barrels per day under a United Nations agree-

The Gulf petro-states also cut off their financial aid to Jordan at the time. in the case of Saudi Arabia about \$200 million a

But ties between Amman, Riyadh and Kuwait have thawed over the last two years. The other Gulf states of Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the UAE have always maintained a good rela-tionship with Amman. One fifth of Jordan's

active population is unemployed, and Jordan has a foreign debt of \$6.8 billion. One Jordanian in five lives under the poverty threshold.

Jordan, a country with no natural resources. found its economy badly affected by the fallout from the U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

A large proportion of Iraqi trade used to transit via Jordan, and Iraq was one of Jordan's main trading partners. Israel, with whom Jordan signed a peace agreement in 1994 has not provided an alternative outlet. After Iraq's 1990 inva-

sion of Kuwait the precipitous return to Jordan of some 300,000 Palestinians who had been working in the Gulf states, and the closure of Gulf markets to Jordanian products added to the country's economic diffi-

Netanyahu instructs his ministries to facilitate commerce with Jordan c

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyhau ordered taxes slashed on Jordanian imports and instructed his ministers to implement other steps to boost economic ties with Jordan in the wake of King Hussein's death on Sunday, officials

"The prime minister has instructed government ministries to facilitate commerce with Jordan, as well as to develop the full array of economic relations between

Israel and Jordan," said a statement issued after the weekly cabinet meeting.

The statement provided no details but a senior official said Netanyahu had ordered the trade ministry to "lower all import taxes on goods shipped from Jordan to the Palestinian areas and Israel."

The official, who spoke on condition of Netanyahu ordered the moves to help bolster Jordan's

tain stability during the transition of power from King Hussein to his eldest son and successor King Abdullah.

"This is a gesture by the prime minister towards the Jordanians and Palestinians with the intention of improving economic ties in the region at this difficult time," he said.

Officials in the ministry of industry and trade were not immediately available for com-

Jordanians have frequently complained about the lack of economic dividends from their 1994 peace treaty with Israel.

Israel has blamed security and technical problems for the slow growth in trade with Jor-

But critics accuse the government of purposely keeping trade barriers in place to prevent cheaper Jordanian goods from entering the country via the Palestinian territories.

Iran struggling to boost non-oil exports

the second largest oil on oil sales. producer in the Middle
East, is taking steps to
boost non-oil exports to
householders make up for falling rev-

enues from crude sales, an export official has Mojtaba Khosrotaj, the

director of Iran's exports promotion center, told a press conference that his country would stage a major exhibition of exportable products in February to attract foreign consumers and ease

TEHRAN (AFP) - Iran, its near total dependence because of plummeting policy of seeking eco-

The products range from detergents and household durables to leather and cosmetics, he said, adding that the centre was mainly targetting such economic partners as Italy. Japan. Turkey and the United

Arab Émirates (UAE). Iran, which relies on crude exports for over 80 per cent of its hard currency income, has seen a sharp drop in such

revenues in the past year

oil prices. Khosrotaj said Iran's rather than one to pro-

non-oil exports had declined in value by 11 per cent in the past year. although their volume had increased by 40 per cent.

He blamed the inferior quality of Iranian goods for their failure to compete on international markets. "Iranian goods are not produced for foreign markets," lamented. -He said that a "past

THE BETTER HALF

mote exports has meant producers are often ignorant of export and trade mechanisms. "Producers are further

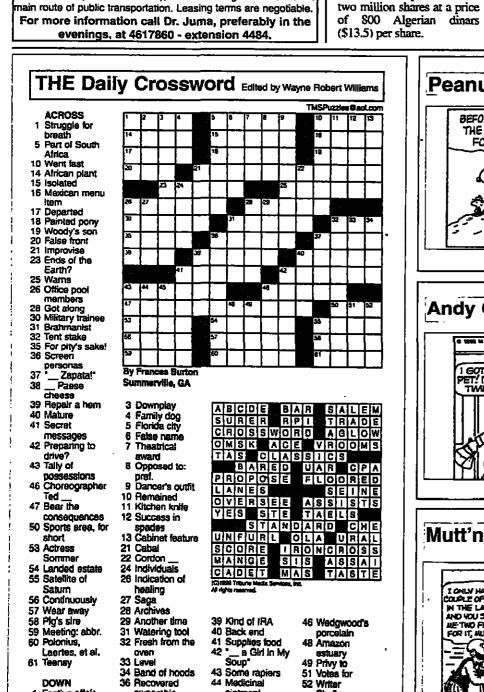
hindered by excessive regulations and varying exchange rates." he said. Iran tightly regulates trade, imports in particular, in an effort to pre-

nomic self-sufficiency

vent precious foreign () currency from leaving the country,

By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN



34 Band of hoods 36 Recovered

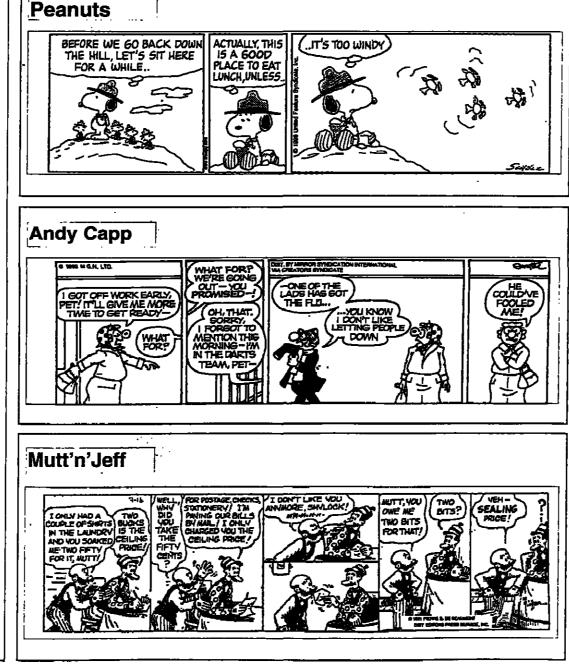
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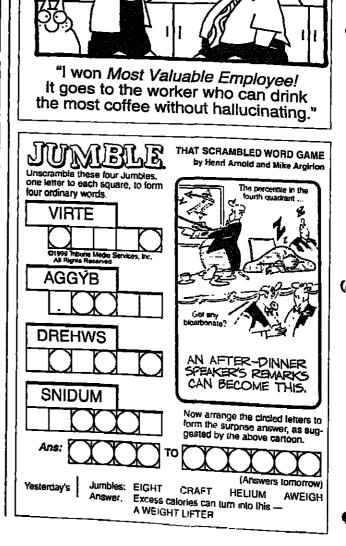
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Muasher sees banking market **bat)**. in difficult situation if not developed Skiller. Acres . ** IF THE banking market is not rapidly developed, we will find our-Part of the last

selves in a difficult situation at a time of global openness and as we near joining the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the partnership accord with Europe as well as other new mechanisms," said Rajai Muasher, the board chairman of the Jordan National Bank.

Daily

Muasher, a former minister of industry and trade, indicated that most Arab and Jordanian banks are of local nature and have limited capability to operate in outside markets with which dealings are conducted through corresponding banks. As such, he said, the (Arab and Jordanian) banks do not develop themselves in the right way and "no Jordanian bank should be exempted from the responsibility of this unac-ceptable situation in the Jordanian banking sector."

The chairman referred to the requirement of raising the capital to a minimum of JD20 million saying that some banks consider this to be a fulfilment of the Central Bank demand and see no need for the additional step of raising the capital further.

This is wrong as it would result in the inability of banks to provide sufficient financing to big or medium-

size projects.' Muasher saw a very wide possibility of licensing foreign banks or opening new branches for them in the country. As they enjoy expertise and capabilities, the (foreign banks) will compete with the Jordanian and Arab banks in their home territories," he

said adding that the foreign banks will offer new tools and products in the local market.

Beat

"Furthermore, they will have an effective role in developing the Jordanian and Arab banking market," Muasher added stressing that, as such, it is imperative to seek and search for technical and banking Jordanian expertise from the local market and from abroad in order to get the necessary results.

Asked about the necessary expertise to support the banking system, the board chairman of the Jordan National Bank mentioned those related to financing tools in the financial market. He specified the bonds market which has noticeably developed in the world. "But in Jordan it is still weak and limited without trading except when banks buy bonds and keep them until the maturity date," said Muasher.

He added: "If no mechanism and return on these bonds at varied rates is formulated to be in harmony and close to banking interest rates and to the expectations of investors who hold these bonds, they will remain owned by the banks and that is not a productive process." As such, Muasher concluded, in order to activate the bonds market, there is a need to expertise and qualified personnel besides legislations to regulate such activities similar to other financial centres in the world (Al Arab Al

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1999

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Hang on to your money today. You'll want to spend it on something fun, like going skiing. You might even decide to liquidate your assets and live on the slopes forever. The temptations are intense, but the risks are high. A good idea today is best left right where it is, as a good

idea, not a call to action. TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Go along with a partner's whim today, especially if it has to do with your home, family or a household item. Real estate is also an adventure to get into only with your partner's support. He or she has strong ideas about how things ought to be done, and today, you'd be a fool

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) While you think you're doing a great job, you could actually be upsetting someone else. Just to be safe, keep checking to make sure you're on the right track. You know you are, but what you're really asking is whether you're doing what the other person wants, its important for you to be of service, even while you're being

brilliant CANCER: (June 22 to July 22) This could be a rough day for some people, but it'll be neat for you. You've got a grand trine in water signs. You can't look out in the sky and see it, but we know that its there. At any rate, when this formation happens, you get very lucky. and this time you're lucky in love. Make the

best of it. LEO: (July 23 to August 22) The sun is in Aquarius and the moon is in Scorpio. If you're stuck with a problem at home, maybe what you're missing is advice from a person who's job it is to save money, or bring it in. Its not the money you need so much right now. Its just a little bit of objective perspective.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You may find it difficult to think today. You have a tendency to stop and ponder and strategise, and that's important right now. If you don't get anything else done today except setting up your schedule for next month, you'll still be money ahead. If you hurry into a poorly planned project, you'll just make more work

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Money is your focus today, and you might as well get aggressive about it. Are you being paid what you're worth? If you're not, its nobody's fault but your own. You need to raise your rates, up your prices or change jobs. If your skills are in demand, then peole will be willing to pay more for them.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You're strong, determined, energetic, good looking, and you're running into a problem. It looks like an intellectual type is giving you a world of grief. Luckily, you've got plenty of support from someone who loves you. Maybe that's the key. What you can't get by being pushy, maybe you can get by being nice. Its worth a try.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Something you're trying to accomplish is not getting through, as if the other person simply isn't listening. Perhaps you're not communicating effectively. One of the most important aspects of communication, of course, is listening. So instead of trying to explain today, ask leading questions. Ask what the other person wants.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Looks like what you and your committee want is not available now. Apparently it'll take a little more planning, a little more research, and possibly a few more fund-raisers. Don't despair. Necessity is the mother of invention, and this dilemma could lead to a brand new idea. Might as well look at it like

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 18) An older person wants to order you around. That's ridiculous, of course. You know everything, but this other person doesn't seem to care. He or she just wants the power. Once you understand that, the situation will be easier to deal with. Just say "yes, sir" or "yes, ma'am," and bow and scrape a bit. You'll save yourself a lot of trouble.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) You're so idealistic that sometimes its difficult to pick one idea and stick with it. Its easier to focus today, and as you do that, you may discover there are problems to overcome between where you are and where you want to go. Noticing is the first step in solving those problems, and you can do that. Start by making a

> Birthstone of February: Amethyst -- Onyx

Jordan leads the region in competitiveness

AMMAN (J.T.) - ahead of Egypt and Jordan's efforts to open Turkey. its economy through trade liberalisation and modernisation of the regulatory environment recognised abroad.

The latest issue of "The Global Competitiveness Report 1998" (GCR), which rates countries on factors such as openness, government intervention. finance. infrastructure, technol-

management, labour and institutions, has given Jordan a ranking of 34, a score which 33% (JD158 which places Jordan in million) was of foreign the lead in the region, origin.

The GCR rankings put Singapore at the top in overall competitiveness, followed by are beginning to be Hong Kong and the USA as second and third respectively.

witnessed 1998 JD480 million in new and expanded investments, a record year for projects taking advantage of exemptions under Investment Promotion Law. This represented a 17.4 per cent increase over 1997, of

Japan rejects **U.S.-style** labour market

TOKYO (AFP) - Japan's tic surgery," said the minisgovernment on Monday rejected US .- style liberalisation of the labour market as it battles to cut record jobless queues while restor-

ing economic growth. Labour Minister Akira Amari said U.S. corporate chiefs had approached him begging for deregulation and liberalisation of the market which meant in other words "make it easier to lay people off."

"As far as I am concerned. I have a pretty negative attitude towards this policy," he told a Foreign Correspondents's Club of Japan luncheon, warning more sackings would batter, consumer confidence.

Stable employment was critical to Japanese confidence, Amari said. With the jobless rate at a

record high 4.4 per cent, incomes were dropping but people were maintaining the same level of savings. he said, demonstrating their unwillingness to spend in times of uncertainty.

On the other hand, sticking to a cradle-to-grave employment system threatened the competitiveness of Japanese firms overseas and their very survival, along with the jobs they provided.

The challenge was to reconcile the two arguments, which Amari described as a "Catch 22."

His conclusion: "The traditionally Japanese style long-term employment structure should continue remaining and surviving as the core of the Japanese employment policy.

"But at the same time we have to build a number of channels through which workers can (start) new ventures and new works."

In place of radical reform, Amari listed measures which tinker at the edges of Japan's employment system or perform selective surgery on the sickest organs.

The widespread seniority system, for example, under which salary increases with time served in a company regardless of ability "will have to undergo rather dras-

But even this practice, he conceded, would "die hard."

In place of drastic reform, Amari forecast compromise. "What I am proposing here is a new employment system that can be defined as being placed in the mid-way of the traditional employment system and socalled American-style of system."

The government planned under its latest stimulus package to provide one trillion yen (\$8.9 billion) to help subsidise wages at new small companies including those started by jobless people.

It would also ease legislation on hiring temporary workers and concentrate help on white-collar workers, including training and programmes education which tap the private sector.

Tokyo would free up the job-finding market to allow greater private sector participation in helping match skills and jobs, the minister said, rejecting arguments there were no jobs.

The latest figures for November showed there were only 47 job offers for every 100 job seekers. Large companies would

be encouraged to supplement their traditional enmasse hiring of college graduates and the government would make it easier for women to return to work after having babies or raising families, the minister said.

"Also we are thinking of subsidising child-care assistance within private corporations," he said.

Japan's jobless rate of 4.4 per cent nearly matched the 4.3 per cent record low in the United States, Amari said, but added there were two key differences.

One was that Japan's corporations resorted to sacking only as a last resort. The other was that "Japanese people are not familiar with being fired," meaning concern over security soared even at relatively low levels

Israelis see economic ties with Jordan unaffected

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israelis are likely to hold back on further investment in Jordan until the Kingdom's domestic political situation is clarified. Israeli business executives and trade officials said on Monday.

But they said the logic of investing and trading with Jordan was too strong for Israeli companies to stay away for long.

"I think they will hesitate. but I recommend they don't. Now is the right time because prices are good and land is cheap," said Gil Feiler, whose Info-Prod Research Ltd advises Israeli companies doing business in the Middle East

By global standards bilateral ties between the two neighbouring countries are small, but both governments ascribe a great deal of importance to it.

"This is an effective and practical way to privatise the peace...It's important to have relations on a business level," said Gad Ben-Ari, director of Middle East operations at Koor Industries.

On Sunday, in a gesture aimed at supporting Jordan's new King Abdullah, the Israeli cabinet said it would take unspecified measures to ease bilateral trade.

Israelis are more enthusiastic about the potential for joint venture investment than trade.

"Here economics really talks," Feiler said. "In Jordan, labour is cheap, infrastructure is good, land is cheap and the legislation is much better than in the Palestinian Authority.

They're much more open to Israeli investors than Egypt or the Palestinians." Unofficially, Israel is estimated to have invested nearly \$50 million in Jordan, mainly in textile and apparel plants, although there are other businesses like batteries and software.

Between 2,500 and 3,000 jobs have been created.

Economic ties, however, remain a sensitive issue in Jordan and to a lesser extent in Israel. Eli Kazhdan, a senior

adviser to Israeli Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, said that every time the government takes measures to open trade, it is barraged by complaints from manufacturers about competition.

In Jordan, the complaints have a political tinge that has grown darker as Middle East peacemaking has stalled under Israeli Prime Benyamin Minister Netanyahu.

As a result, officials said. many Israeli companies keep a low profile in Jordan; in many cases their Jordanian partners deny they have any ties with Israel at

"My hope is that after every joint venture is signed, Israeli politicians don't shout about it," Feiler said. These things should be

done quietly." On the trade side. Israeli exports to Jordan amounted to just \$25 million last year, up 25 percent from 1997, while Israeli imports from Jordan grew 37 per cent to \$17 million.

Feiler said two-way trade could grow to \$350 million over the next six years. But officials said the volume would remain small because the two economies were mismatched.

With per capita gross domestic product of \$17,200, Israel is in the same league as western economies. European Jordan's per capita GDP is about \$1,300 a year.

As a result, many Jordanian exports to Israel go on to the Palestinian

"Most of Jordan's trade today is with other Arab countries, so the Palestinian market is more appropriate for them," said Mandy Barak, director of the international trade division at the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce.

Israeli officials said the government had taken unilateral steps to lower duties, but they said Jordan's highest priority was access to the Palestinian market.

"Part of the problem is that the Palestinians are not always excited about Jordan exports. They are two economies competing with each other because they produce the same goods," Kazhdan said.

Nine global auto firms announce new alliance

WASHINGTON (AFP) -Nine global automakers have announced the formation of a new trade association to represent their common interests.

Automobile Manufacturers groups U.S.-based Ford and General Motors, Germany's BMW, Volkswagen and DaimlerChrysler, Volvo of Sweden and Mazda, Nissan and Toyota of Japan.

The Alliance replaces the American Automobile Manufacturers Association, which ceased to function Dec. 31.

The association had been limited to GM, Ford and Chrysler, prior to the latter's merger with Daimler-Benz of Germany.

Peter Pestillo, vice chairman of Ford Motor Company, will serve as chairman of the Alliance in its first year. Vice chairman will be

Thomas Gale, DaimlerChrysler executive vice president. "We have a special com-

mitment to improving the environment and motor vehicle safety," said Pestillo. "A major emphasis will be

to convey this commitment as well as the industry's accomplishments and positions on public policy issues to the public, the government and other interested parties," he added.

British Post Office buys German Parcel in first big foreign acquisition LONDON (AFP) — The The Post Office would not

British Post Office has agreed to buy German Parcel, the third largest private carrier in Germany, under a new regime of commercial freedom announced by the government last

Neville Bain said in a statement: "An acquisition of this kind is a key first step in our strategy of becoming one of the top global distribution companies." John Roberts, the chief

executive, said that the deal was "the first tangible outcome of the commercial freedoms announced for the post office." In December, the then

trade and industry secretary announced greater commercial liberty for the Post Office, which is state-owned and has a monopoly on basic mail, but said that full privatisation was "unrealistic." "This major international

acquisition shows the commitment of the government and the Post Office to move quickly to implement the radical package of reforms announced last December," said recently appointed Secretary of State for Trade

and Industry Stephen Byers. German Parcel, which has annual sales of 350 million euros (\$400 million), also comes with a 23 per cent stake in General Parcel, an international company with services in 30 European countries, vastly enhancing the British Post Office's distribution network.

Amra Forum Hotel

Amman

reveal the price it paid for the private company. The Post Office is one of

the few remaining nationalised businesses in Britain and faces, along with its counterparts in European countries, increas-Post Office chairman ing pressure to adapt to the growing deregulation of the monopoly system. Roberts told a London

press conference said that the German purchase "will allow us to develop overseas markets to take up the challenges of postal liberalisation.'

Roberts said that parcel business had been hit by the worldwide economic slowdown, but that with competition sharply hearing between once-cocooned European postal services, further acquistions were on the horizon.

The strategy is for the British Post Office to become one of the key players in Europe," he said, underlining that to achieve this the Post Office must keep extending its reach.

"We have to take at least

as many as our competition," he said. "We have a number of companies we'd like to think about. At any point in time, we're probably looking at five or six things that might be of interest to us."

He said that the Post Office had previously been frustrated that its hands were tied by the government, but that its commercial freedom was now bearing fruit.

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Arab, Israeli press hail achievements of King Hussein



U.S. President Bill Clinton and his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak walk in the funeral procession of King Hussein, who was buried, on Monday in Amman. Kings, presidents, sheikhs and sultans from around the world attended the state funeral of the 63-year-old late Monarch, who died on Monday in Amman, after a seven-month-long battle against cancer (AFP photo)

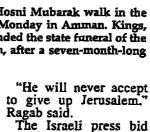
CAIRO (AFP) — The Arab and Israeli press on Monday paid a vibrant tribute to King Hussein and offered his successor support, in an unusual show of una-

But the Arab press warned the new monarch. Abdullah, to beware of Israeli "minefields" and urged him to uphold his father's heritage and particularly his efforts

for peace. There is no doubt that King Abdullah will be confronted with mines sown by [Israeli Prime Minister) Benyamin Netanyahu on the road peace," wrote

Egyptian editor Samir Ragab, a confadent of President Mubarak.

"But I believe that by taking advantage of Egypt's experience with Israel, a united stand and common policy, he will prove that Jordan. like all Arab countries. will accept only a com-



King Hussein farewell

in an extraordinary dis-

play

of emotion,

describing him as a friend." One of the most passionate eulogies, was carried on the front page of the Yediot Aharonot, Israel's biggest selling newspaper, where Eitan Haber, the closest aide

mine. to the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin wrote: If they place one



Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu walks past Jordanian pipers, while attending the funeral of King Hussein in Amman, on Monday (AP photo)

thousand flowers on his grave, one of them will be mine. If a thousand tears wet his last resting place, one of them was

"If kings, presidents and heads of state will crowd around the pile of

earth which covers your eyes, I will wait till they go away. You always had time for friends, now the friends have time to pay you the respect due to

Syria's official press



Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz attends the funeral of King Hussein, on Monday in Amman. Kings, presidents, sheikhs and sultans from around the world attended the state funeral of the late Monarch, who died on Sunday in Amman, after a seven-month-long battle against cancer (AFP photo)

63-year-old Monarch without commentary, unlike the Arab Gulf press that mourned the King who died Sunday after a seven months battle with can-

King Hussein was one of the leading figures of the peace process, and a historic symbol in which Jordan and the Arab World can be proud," the Saudi daily Al Yaum said.

"He left the world after making Jordan respected by others, he played an important role in finding wise and judicious solutions to the most complicated political and economic questions," the daily said.

"He left the world at peace with all Arab and Islamic states, and all the countries friendly with Jordan," it said.

The Qatari daily Al Watan stressed that "a page of Jordanian. Arab and world history has been turned with the death of King Hussein. extraordinary skills have been recognised today across the planet."

semi-official The United Arab Emirates

Al Ittihad newspaper appeared only in black and white Monday, with all other colours taken out as a sign of mourn-

"His ability to cross minefields and to face dramatic : changes, () inspired admiration from those who disagreed with him and those who supported him," the daily said.

"His death leaves a void difficult to fill. Arabs are called on to support the new king, Abdullah, to surmount these difficult circumstances," it said.

World's papers discuss future of Jordan



Britain's Prince Charles walks with Spain's Crown Prince Felipe during funeral ceremonies for King Hussein attended by more than forty world leaders on Monday (AP



German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder offers his condolences to new King Abdullah, as Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair waits in line, during funeral ceremonies Monday for King Hussein, which was attended by more that 40 world leaders (AP photo)

Newspapers around the world saluted the late King Hussein as a unique peacemaker and said the loss of such a pivotal leader raised crucial questions for Jordan and the Middle East peace process.

As royals, presidents and premiers gathered in Amman on Monday to bury King Hussein, who died of cancer a day earlier after ruling for 47 years, newspaper editorials praised him as a force for stability in the volatile region.

Papers focused on how King Hussein's death would affect the region where he strove to balance such diverse interests and what challenges faced the new King Abdullah, King military-Hussein's trained eldest son.

"The often turbulent nature of Middle East politics will soon test Abdullah's mettle," Britain's Times newspaper said.

From the start, King Hussein was convinced of the need to maintain a balance in his country between groups which were not natural allies," said De Volkskrant of the Netherlands.

"No other Arab leader could expect both [PLO President] Yasser Arafat and [Israel's Premier] Bibi Netanyahu to shed a tear at his grave," it addęd.

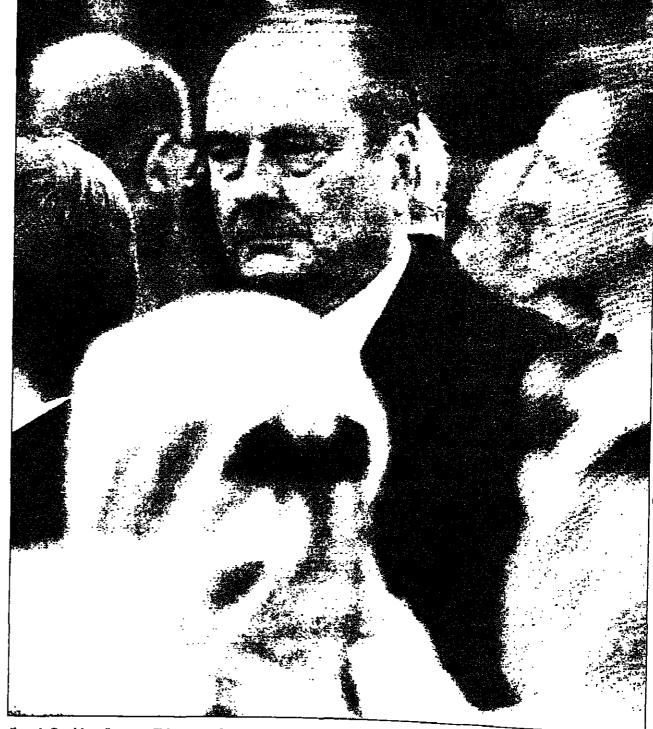
"Goodbye to a friend" and "Goodbye to a King" read headlines in Israel's biggest newspapers in tribute.

The depth of feeling caused in some parts of the Arab World by King Hussein's 1994 peace deal with Israel also surfaced. In Tehran, hardline Iranian newspapers attacked Hussein's policies.

Lebanon's pro-Syrian Al Satir, in a front-page editorial, lambasted what it described as U.S. hegemony over Jordan.

But papers said King Abdullah, 37, faced an improved outlook.

"Jordan's future in the troubled region of the Middle East will not be easy, though today it is



French President Jacques Chirac attends King Hussein's funeral Monday. More than forty world leaders arrived in

more promising than it was a few years ago," said the Catalan paper La Vanguardia in Spain. "When today in

Amman leaders as varied as Clinton, Arab leaders both moderate and progressive, and Israel's leaders, gather to bid their last farewell to King Hussein, it will be clear that the world has changed," it added. Britain's Guardian

newspaper noted the

diplomatic minefield caused by bringing old enemies together at the graveside.

"King funeral looked likely to become the backdrop for some multilateral summitry and a few awkward encounters as President Clinton and [British Premier] Tony Blair rub shoulders with some of their bitterest enemies," it said.

United Arab The

Emirate's Al Khaleej Arabic language daily said that people might differ on King Hussein's policies but they must agree on the

unique role he played. "Over nearly 50 years. King Hussein knew how to preserve the throne and Jordanian unity. leaving a legacy of Arah and international relations no one else could achieve," it said. Hussein's role as a

gifted mediator was acclaimed.

King Hussein was able to maintain dialogue with opposition and his opponents in his country and did the same with other Arabs and foreigners," said Bahrain's Arabic-lan-guage Al Ayam.

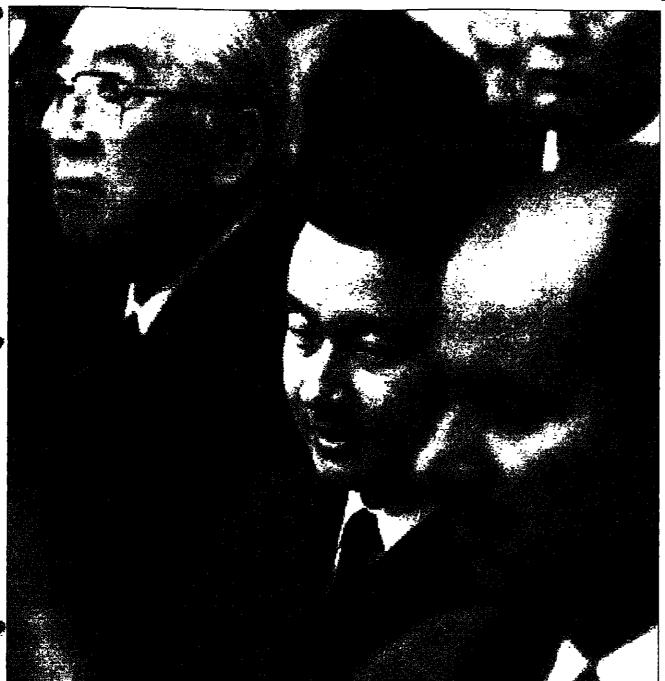
The Saudi Gazette, along with other papers. (praised the smooth transition to the new King.



ordan















The British Ladies of Amman Extend to His Majesty King Abdullah, The Hashemite Family and the Jordanian people,

Deepest sympathy on the passing of His Majesty King Hussein Ben Talal

May God Rest His Soul

King Fahd of S. Arabia expresses grief over King Hussein's death

RIYADH (Petra) - King Royal family and Fahd of Saudi Arabia on Monday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the passing of the late King Hussein.

During a Saudi cabinet session, King Fahd mourned the death of King Hussein. describing him as a brother. friend and an international figure. He said the King's death is a loss, not only for the Jordanian people, but also for the Arab and Islamic nations as well as the world at large.

The Saudi monarch said his country has always maintained strong relations with Jordan and expressed the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's condolences to His Majesty King Abdullah, the Jordanian people.

A Saudi delegation, headed by Saudi Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz. and comprising senior Saudi officials Monday took part in the funeral of King Hussein. Crown Prince Abdullah and his delegation members offered their condolences to King Abdullah. Her Majesty Queen Noor, HRH Crown Prince Hamzah and Royal family members.

Upon departure from Crown Prince Abdullah sent a cable to King Abdullah in which he voiced his country's support for Jordan and confidence in King Abdullah's ability to lead the nation towards a

By Francesca Ciriaci

AMMAN — U.S. presidents

on Monday paid emotional

tributes to King Hussein as a great man and leader and gave

His Majesty King Abdullah

an unequivocal vote of confi-

"He made us all a little bet-

ter, and always will,"

President Bill Clinton said of

King Hussein after the funer-

"He really was driven not

by his title, but by his respon-

sibilities." Clinton told the

U.S. community and embassy

First Lady Hillary Rodham

Clinton and former presidents

Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter,

and George Bush also

addressed the gathering to

pay their tribute to the memo-

ry of King Hussein and

express support for King

"Hussein really did bring people together," Clinton

said, referring to his top dele-

employees here.

Abdullah.

brighter and more prosper- because they are based on

Your second country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the leadership of the custodian of the two Holy mosques, has always stood by and will always, God willing, stand by Jordan, and will use its resources to sup-Jordan," Prince Abdullah said in his cable, adding that the relations between the two countries are stronger than words.

'Saudi Arabia will remain faithful to your country and will firmly stand by you and support you in good and bad

two Republicans and the

unprecedented gathering of

world leaders, some of whom

historic rivals, around the cof-

fin of Jordan's beloved King.

world were together... and it

was as if King Hussein was

After a "big meeting" with

King Abdullah shortly after

the funeral, Clinton said: "I

have great confidence in the

young King of Jordan, He

clearly understands his mis-

He said King Abdullah "exuded the quiet humble confidence that I saw so often

"He said, in the most mov-

ing way, 'I and all my broth-

ers and sisters have absorbed

my father's teaching. We

know what we are supposed

Clinton asked Congress on

Saturday to allocate \$300 mil-

lion in financial and military

The first lady, who met with

assistance to Jordan.

to do and I intend to do it'."

in his father."

embracing them all."

"People from all over the

We realise that Jordan is Crown Prince Abdullah about to embark on a new said Jordanian-Saudi relaera during which we fear tions have always been and nothing concerning its will continue to be strong future because the late King

Hussein has chosen you to lead the country towards a bright future," said Prince Abdullah.

The Saudi crown prince "I have found in you a added: "Our common histoleader enjoying wisdom. ry and shared destiny will clear insight and vigilance not be affected by those who and a sense of responsibility attempt to fish in troubled before God and the nation, waters as long as King and I felt optimistic about Abdullah's heart and mind your leadership of your serve as the basis for diacountry towards a brighter logue in the interest of the future," he added. two countries. Our mutual Prince Abdullah sent interests do not tolerate any

firm principles, including

unity of religion, blood, kin-

misinterpretation by mali-

expressed Americans' "deep

friendship" with the Royal

"We will be there for you in

the next months and years,"

expressed his confidence in

the future of Jordan under the

leadership of King Abdullah.

He will do just fine," he said.

Describing King Hussein as

"great, great statesman."

Former President Ford said he

was "very fortunate over the

years to have many experi-

ences with him. We treasure

Recalling fond memories of

his many meetings with King

Hussein, Former President

Carter said: "I do not think I

have ever seen a greater out-

pouring and world's apprecia-

He said that once, before the

tion for a human being."

those experiences."

she said.

ship and neighbourliness.

another cable to Crown Prince Hamzah, congratulatcious people. We reiterate ing him on his appointment that we support you by word as heir to the Throne and wishing him every success in pursuing the march that King Hussein charted to achieve the aspirations and hopes of the Jordanian peo-

Clinton, former U.S. presidents



"At that time, Abdullah was Queen Noor's parents, Najeeb and Doris Halaby, 15. That is why I was reassured and think that he is very flew to Amman with the presqualified to lead this people." ident and the first lady for the National Security Adviser Sandy Berger was quoted by Former President Bush

Agence France Presse as saying of King Abdullah: "This is a very, very impressive man who has the deft touch of his father but will certainly put his own stamp on it."

Former U.S. President Ronald Reagan hailed King Hussein as "a strong force for peace" and expressed his and his wife's "deep sadness" in a statement released from his Los Angeles office and carried by news agencies.

"Our love and prayers go out to King Abdullah, Queen Noor, the Royal family and the people of Jordan during this very difficult time," the



Her Majesty Queen Noor and HRH Princess Basma comfort each other during King Hussein's funeral on Monday (Reuters photo)

Queen mourns beloved husband

By Caroline Faraj

AMMAN - Regally and with remarkable courage, Her Majesty Queen Noor saw His Majesty King Hussein, her husband of 20 years, through to the end of his final hours on earth. Aides said Queen Noor

kept vigil at the room where King Hussein's body lay after he was taken home Sunday from King Hussein Medical Queen Noor insisted on

sleeping in the same room where His Majesty was lying," one of Queen Noor's aides told the Jordan Times.

"On Monday, she washed King Hussein's face and wiped his head and sat next to

him before his sons arrived to wash the body before laying him in his coffin," said the A tearful Queen Noor stood

at the gate of Bab Al Salam Palace accompanied by female members of the Royal family watching while King Hussein's body was carried away for a 20-kilometre procession through Amman to the Royal Palace Cemetery.

After accepting condolences from her family, she headed for the Royal Court where she paid her last respects to her beloved husband and joined mourners at the burial by staying in a sep-

arate tent close by. Queen Noor, 47, then emerged, wearing a long black skirt and jacket, and

covering her hair with a white

scarf in a sign of traditional Islamic mourning.

During the King's illness, Queen Noor stayed at his bedside at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. *During the last treatment, Queen Noor did not leave the hospital at all," Jordan's Ambassador to the U.S.

Jordan Times earlier. Among those paying condolences to the Queen were Saudi Crown Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz Al Saud.

Marwan Muasher told the

Prince Abdullah, accompanied by his two sons, Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal and Prince Talal Ben Abdul Aziz, expressed deep condolences to the Queen and affirmed Saudi Arabia's full support for the Hashemite Royal Family and

the people of Jordan. Prince Abdullah told the Queen how deeply the Saudi family loved and admired King Hussein.

Queen Noor expressed her sincere appreciation to the Saudi prince, and said that Jordanians and Saudis are "one family." She also described how King Hussein had admired and respected his brothers, the Al Saud fam-

She said that King Hussein had wished to do the "umra [the lesser pilgrimage] but it was not God's will." The Queen told him how much the King had been touched by Prince Abdullah's letter that was sent to the King dur-

ing his first stay at the Mayo Clinic.

After meeting the Saudi crown prince, Queen Noor moved to a second floor room in Raghadan Palace, where she was joined by HRH Princess Rania Al Abdullah, Princess Basma, all the King's daughters and HRH Princess Alia Al Faisal.

Oueen Noor walked strongly with her hands crossed and often bowed to salute soldiers greeting her at Raghadan Palace.

Officials and dignitaries who came to pay their respects to Queen Noor and the other Princesses included President Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, President Jacques Chirac and Mrs. Chirac. United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, the presidents of Austria and Romania, Queen Beatrix of Holland, Queen Sofia of Spain and her daughters, Prince Charles and Prime Minister Tony Blair, Queen Silvia of Sweden, Queen Paola of Belgium, Queen Benjaran Unq Haja Salha and Princess Benjaran Mariam of Brunei, Queen Anne Marie and Princess Chantal of Greece, the Crown Princess of Japan, Princess Lala Hasna, the wife of Prince Aga Khan, President Mary MacAlesse of Ireland, Prime Minister Sheikha Hasina of Bangladesh, Suha Arafat, Leah Rabin and Sara

Leaders at funeral

ALCERIA — President Liamine AUSTRIA BAHRAIN — Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifa BELGIUM - King Albert and Queen Paola BOSNIA Silajdzic BRITAIN — Prince Charles, Prime

Minister Tony Blair COMOROS -- President Tadriddine Ben Said Massonde CROATIA --- Prime Minister Zlado

CYPRUS Clerides CZECH REPUBLIC -- Presiden

Vachy Havel DENMARK - Prince Henrik, husband of Queen Margrethe; Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen EGYPT - President Hosni Mubarak EC - President Jacques Sanser

FINLAND - Former President Mauno Koivisto

GERMANY - Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder

IRAQ — Vice-President Taha Mohieddin Ma'arouf IRELAND - President Mary

MacAlesse ISRAEL - President Ezer Weizman Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu TTALY -- President Oscur Luigi Scalfam

JAPAN -- Crown Prince Naruhito, Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi KUNVAUT - Crown Prince Sheikh Sand All Abdullah All Sabah LEBANON - Deputy Minister Michel Must

LIRYA -- Seif Al Islam, eldes son of kader Mustmmar Qadhafi MALJA - Foreign Minister Guido

MAURITANIA - Prime Minister Cheik Al Avia Ould Mohammad Khouna

MOROCCO - Crown Prince Side NAMIBIA - Prime Minister Hage Gemech

NETHERI ANDS - Queen Beatrix,

Prime Minister Wim Kok NIGERIA - Military ruler General Ahdukutumi Abuhakar NORWAY -- King Hurald OMAN — Sultan Quboos PAKISTAN -- Prime Minister

Navaz Sharif PNA - President Vasser Arafar POLAND - Foreign Munister Branislaw Geremek ROMANIA - President Emil

Convaninescu RUSSIA - President Boris Yelisin SAUDI ARABIA - Crown Prince Abdullah

SINGAPORE - Foreign Minister Sharmuram Javakamar SOUTH AFRICA --- Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Butheleza SPAIN - King Juan Carlos and

Queen Sofia SUDAN --- President Omar Hasson Al Bashir

SWEDEN - King Carl Gustaf, Fracign Minister Anna Lindh SWITZERLAND - Vice President Adolf Ogs

SYRIA — President Hafez Assaul. Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Farouk Al

TUNISIA - Prime Minister Harned

TURKEY - President Suleyman Demirel, Foreign Minister Ismail Cem UAE - Defence Minister and Dubai Crown Prince Sheakh Mobammad Ben Rashid Al Maktoum

U.N. - Secretary General Kofi Annun U.S. -- President Bill Clinton YEMEN — President Alı Abdullah

Netanyahu sees 'new beginning' for peace

Soldiers carry the medals of King Hussein in front of his coffin Monday during the funeral procession (AFP photo)

AMMAN (AFP) - Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu said he saw hope for a "new beginning" in the peace process while attending the funeral here Monday of King Hussein alongside such foes as Syrian leader

Hafez Assad. "The fact that we all came here to signal our commitment to real peace in the Middle East convinced me I

must try to achieve a new beginning to broaden the efforts for peace and make it real," he said on Israel Radio from Amman. with many Jordanians and

Netanyahu said he had met representatives of unnamed Arab states and been close to many others during the funeral "and got the impression that they understand the peace between Israel and Jordan is strong and lasting."

Netanyahu said he had not met with Assad, "We weren't in the same tent. There's protocol and I didn't

go barging into his tent." But in response to a question Netanyahu said he saw Assad's surprise visit, after years of difficult relations with Jordan and knowing Israeli leaders would also be present, as intended to signal his renewed interest in

"I assume there was such an intention on the part of Syria," he said.

"I assume that they wanted to signal a desire to maintain good relations with Jordan,"

"We'd like to see good neighbourly relations also and I am most definitely interested in renewing negotiations with Syria," he said, referring to peace talks

which broke off three years

When Syria wants to renew the negotiations, and I hope that they will do so soon, we will know how to proceed," he said.

Assad insists the negotiations resume where they left off under Israel's previous Labour government --- with an Israeli willingness to withdraw from the Golan Heights, which it occupied in 1967, in exchange for

Netanyahu's right-wing government has rejected such a precondition.

briefly

Netanyahu said he also

with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and expressed the importance of "pursuing our efforts" to implement signed peace accords. Netanyahu has frozen implementation of the Wye River land-for-peace agreement signed in October with Arafat, accusing the Palestinians of failing to meet their security commitments under the deal.

The Israeli leader, who led a 23-member delegation to King Hussein's funeral, said he also spoke at length with His Majesty King Abdullah. "I see Abdullah as a very

open and warm-hearted person, someone who strongly resembles his futher and I have no doubt he will follow in his father's footsteps," he

Netanyahu said the King thanked him and the Israeli people for their expressions of love and condolence over the death of Hussein and suggested the two meet soon for a substantive discussion.

World pays respects to King Hussein on his final journey joint chiefs of staff pre-

(Continued from page 1)

King Hussein's casket was then again hoisted onto the shoulders of the eight Jordanian officers and taken on its final journey to the Hashemite burial ground in the Palace grounds.

Army officers, in green or crimson berets or the traditional red-and-white kiffiya, were followed by the Jordanian military band as it played bagpipes and drums.

Ten men carried large velvet placards bearing the medals of King Hussein.

The procession drew to a halt at the Hashemite Cemetery for the final service. the ground hidden under a green canopy.

The chairman of the

sented the Jordanian flag that was draped over the casket to King Abdullah in a symbol of the Hashemite Royal family's continuity. King Hussein's body.

covered in a simple white cloth in line with Islamic law, was lifted from the casket by his five sons as other Royal family members looked tearfully on. Buglers played "The Last Post" after his body was lowered into the ground while a 15-gun salute fired into the air.

Jordanian warplanes flew low over the cemetery as the Royal family's imam began chanting the Islamic burial prayer.
"We belong to God and

to God we shall return," said Sheikh Ahmad Hlayel, King Hussein's imam, before the congregation joined him in reading the Fatiha.

The funeral party then left the burial tent led by King Abdullah to receive condolences.

Syrian President Hafez Assad was the first dignitary to present his condolences to the new Jordanian King, kissing him and warmly pressing his hand and arms. A Jordan Television

announcer, his voice cracking with emotion. ended his broadcast by Saying: "May God have mercy on you Abu Abdullah Hussein], you will never die because you live in our hearts."

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gips in mourning for King

King receives m from Prince Ha

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